



Highly poisonous to humans BE AWARE OF WATER HEMLOCK



Erin Derbyshire, whose parents have a cottage on the north shore of Wolfe Lake, noticed a strange new weed growing on their waterfront. Using a plant identification application on her phone she was surprised to learn that it might be Water Hemlock, a highly poisonous plant. Comparing the plant and the pictures she took (posted on the right) to the information she found, she decided it would be better to be safe than sorry and got suited up in safety gear to remove the plant. She asked us to share the pictures and information with our community in case anyone else may have it growing in their shoreline. **THANKS Erin!**

This is the link to the website Erin used: <http://ontariowildflowers.com/main/species.php?id=117>

Small white flowers in an umbrella shape



Water Hemlock is a perennial herbaceous plants which grow up to 2.5 meters (8.2 ft) tall, having distinctive small green or white flowers arranged in an umbrella shape (umbel). Plants in this genus may also be referred to as cowbane or poison parsnip.

Cicuta is native to temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere, mainly North America and

Europe, typically growing in wet meadows, along streambanks and other wet and marshy areas. These plants bear a close resemblance to other members in the family Apiaceae and may be confused with a number of other edible and poisonous plants. The common name hemlock may also be confused with Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), or with the Hemlock tree. (Source: Wikipedia)

All in all, Water Hemlock is considered one of North America's most toxic plants, **being highly poisonous to humans**. Water Hemlock contains a toxin named cicutoxin which causes central nervous system stimulatory effects including seizures following ingestion. Really serious stuff, so please watch out for it. We would appreciate sharing with us when finding Water Hemlock on your own Wolfe Lake property or close by the lake.



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