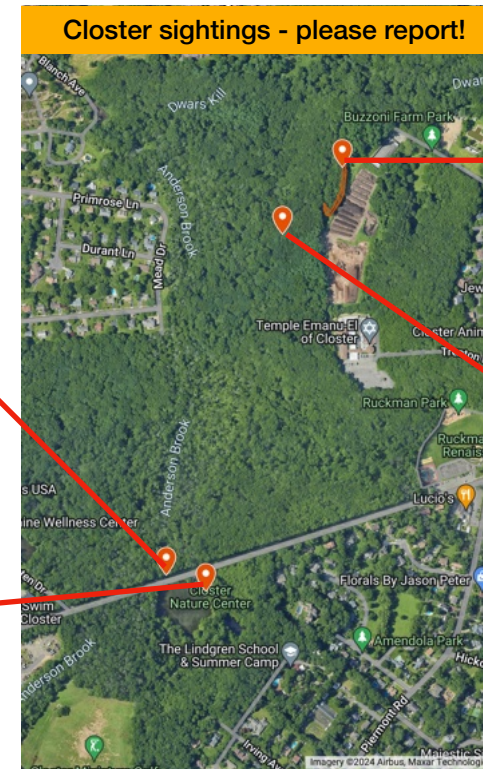
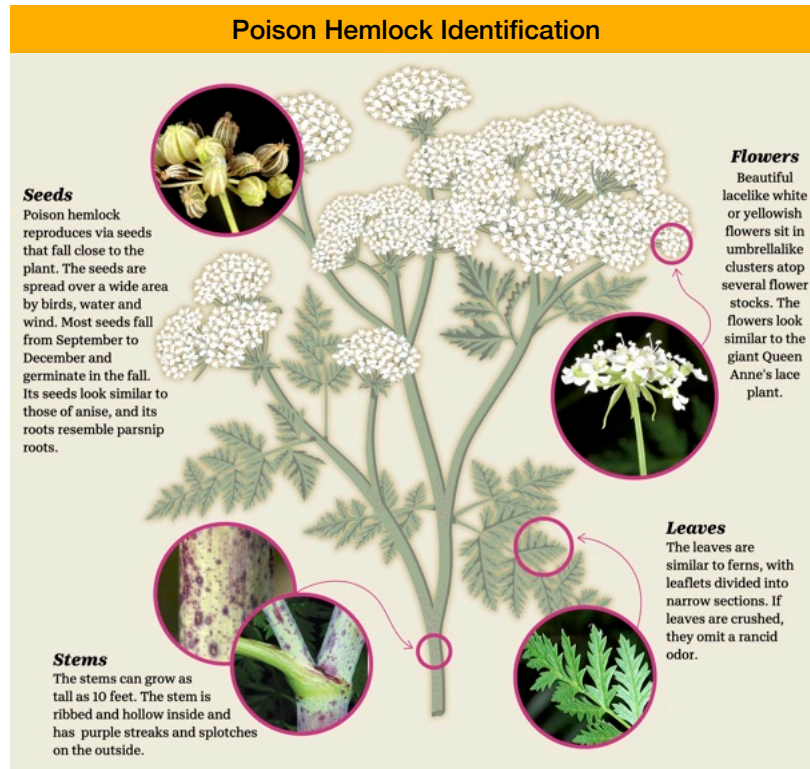


Poison Hemlock in Closter

For the latest information, scan or type:
www.sustainablecloster.org/hemlock

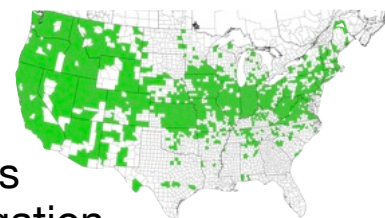


What is Poison Hemlock?

- Poison Hemlock, an invasive plant, is fatally toxic to humans and animals if ingested. It can also cause harm if inhaled during mowing or trimming.

Where does it grow?

- PH can now be found in almost every US state.
- It commonly occurs in dense stands along roadsides, stream banks, irrigation ditches, field margins, waste areas, riparian woodlands, and open floodplains.



How will I recognize it?

- See the identification guide above.
- Look for jagged, triangular leaves, blotchy purple stems, and lace-like white flowers.
- Plants can range from a few inches tall to 8-10 feet.
- It tends to grow in moist environments with good sun exposure.

What should I do if I see it?

- Avoid it - do not cut, mow or burn poison hemlock. Report it - take a photo and send it to hemlock@sustainablecloster.org. If possible, describe the specific location, area of coverage, and plant height.
- Warn neighbors and visitors in the area.
- Even dead plants remain toxic for years.

What if I accidentally touch it?

- Generally, physical contact with poison hemlock will not cause a rash.
- If you (or your pet) accidentally ingest poison hemlock, seek immediate medical attention.

Where is it in Closter?

- While not entirely new to Closter, PH has spread recently due to favorable climate conditions and uncontrolled growth in hidden areas.
- Thus far, PH has been sighted in multiple locations around Closter Nature Center and the Closter DPW composting site.

How will Closter address this?

- Eradicating Poison Hemlock is a difficult, multi-year process requiring careful controls and application of herbicides. To avoid continued spread, quick action is required.
- Closter Nature Center, Closter Environmental Commission, Closter DPW, and others seek to develop a public awareness campaign and a mitigation strategy.
- If herbicides must be employed, they must be applied prior to flowering in June.

How can I help?

- Report any sightings.
- Share this information with residents, visitors, school and scout groups, landscapers, etc.
- Follow the Environmental Commission's info page at sustainablecloster.org/hemlock
- If you wish to join a PH cleanup team as a volunteer, contact us at hello@sustainablecloster.org