

**LOOK
BUT DON'T TOUCH!**

Poisonous Plants of the Carrot Family

Plants in the carrot family have flower clusters called umbels (picture an umbrella). This large and diverse family includes well-known edibles, such as carrots, parsnips and dill.

Some species such as wild parsnip, cow parsnip and giant hogweed can be highly toxic to humans. Sap from these species can cause severe dermatitis, including sensitivity to sunlight, blisters, rashes and eye irritation.

Learn how to identify these poisonous plants of the carrot family.



Wild Parsnip

FLOWER: yellow, umbels 10 to 20 centimetres across

HEIGHT: 1 to 2 meters

STEM: hollow, smooth and green or reddish in colour

LEAF: 2 to 5 pairs of leaflets with toothed margins

DERMATITIS RISK: moderate

STATUS: introduced to Manitoba, invasive, tier 3 noxious weed



Cow Parsnip

FLOWER: white, umbels 25 to 30 centimetres across

HEIGHT: 1 to 3 meters

STEM: hollow with hairs, green to reddish in colour

LEAF: large, lobed leaves with toothed margins

DERMATITIS RISK: moderate

STATUS: native, good for pollinators



Giant Hogweed

FLOWER: white, umbels up to 120 centimetres across

HEIGHT: 1 to 5 meters

STEM: hollow with stiff hairs and reddish flecks

LEAF: very large, deeply lobed leaves with toothed margins

DERMATITIS RISK: high

STATUS: not currently found in Manitoba, invasive, tier 1 noxious weed

Help with identifying a poisonous plant

- Without touching the plant, take pictures of the stem, leaf and flowers (if possible).
- Email the pictures to crops@gov.mb.ca or submit them to your local Manitoba Agriculture office.

If you think you have come into contact with a poisonous plant:

- Seek shelter, away from sunlight.
- Thoroughly wash the exposed area with soap and water.
- Get medical attention if your skin reacts.