

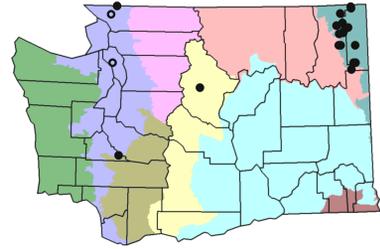
## ***Cicuta bulbifera* L.**

bulb-bearing water-hemlock

Apiaceae - carrot family

status: State Sensitive, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G5 / S2



**General Description:** Hairless perennial, generally single-stemmed, 3-10 dm tall, slender. Stem base somewhat tuberous-thickened, hollow, with transverse partitions; roots sometimes thickened. Leaves compound, all arising from the stem. Middle and lower leaves more or less dissected, with narrowly linear segments, 0.5-4 cm x 0.5-1.5 mm, with margins smooth or obscurely few-toothed. Upper and branch leaves reduced, with fewer segments, or undivided, many of them bearing one or more axillary bulbils.

**Floral Characteristics:** Inflorescence of compound umbels, but umbels frequently lacking, or not maturing fruit. Umbel branches mostly 1-2.5 cm long.

**Fruits:** Dry schizocarp, splitting into two carpels at maturity, orbicular, 1.5-2 mm long, hairless, compressed laterally, constricted where carpels join each other, the ribs broader than the narrow intervals. Identifiable August to September.

**Identification Tips:** Distinguished by its narrow leaflet segments (less than 5 mm wide) and bulblets in the upper leaf axils. *Cicuta douglasii* has leaflets 5-35 mm wide and lacks bulblets.

**Range:** Throughout most of Canada, south to NC, IL, NE, WY, and OR; disjunct in FL.

**Habitat/Ecology:** An obligate wetland species found at edges of marshes, slow-moving streams, lake margins, bogs, wet meadows, and shallow standing water. Grows on hummocks, floating mats, partially submerged rotting logs, and beaver dams. Some sites have a significant Sphagnum moss component. Associated species include alder (*Alnus incana*, *A. viridis*), lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*), willow (*Salix* spp.), spirea (*Spiraea douglasii*, *S. betulifolia*), sedges (*Carex* spp.), bulrush (*Scirpus* spp.), rushes (*Juncus ensifolius* and others), mannagrass (*Glyceria* spp.), and purple marshlocks (*Comarum palustre*\*). Elevations in WA: 70-1130 m (240-3700 ft). Several known sites are associated with beaver activity.

**Comments:** This plant is extremely poisonous and should be handled with caution. The Pacific Northwest plants may constitute a distinct variety of the species. Threats include grazing (although it is toxic to cattle), recreation, hydrologic change, and habitat invasion by reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*). This species is rare in AK, several western and eastern seaboard states, and possibly extirpated from OR.

**References:** Mulligan 1980.

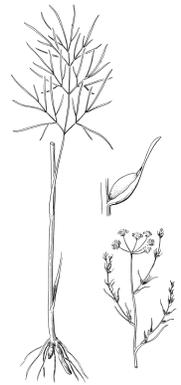


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