

**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

Photos supplied by the University of Guelph (M. Grguric).

## 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](mailto: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.