Conium maculatum

COMMON NAMES
hemlock

BIOSTATUS
Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS
Not applicable

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS
White

SIMILAR TAXA
has an offensive odour when crushed.

HABITAT
Waste land, especially damp locations (DoC, 1998) Riverbed, pastoral, forest margin. Poisonous.

GENUS
Conium

FAMILY
Apiaceae

AUTHORITY
Conium maculatum L.

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
September, October, November, December, January

YEAR NATURALISED
1872

ORIGIN
Europe, Asia, N. Africa

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL
Reproduces by seed

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING
FAC: Facultative
Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).

POISONOUS PLANT
One of the most poisonous plants in New Zealand. All parts are poisonous if eaten.

ETYMOLOGY
maculatum: From the Latin maculatus ‘blotched’



Conium maculatum. Photographer: Auckland Regional Council, Licence: Public domain.



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NVS CODE
CONMAC

MORE INFORMATION
https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/conium-maculatum/

PDF DATE
27 May 2026