

***Cicuta bulbifera* L.**
bulb-bearing water-hemlock
Apiaceae (Parsley Family)

Status: State Sensitive
Rank: G5S2

General Description: Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1961): Plants generally single-stemmed, 12 to 40 inches tall, mostly relatively slender, not much thickened at the base and sometimes without thickened roots. Leaves all cauline, the middle and lower ones more or less dissected, with narrowly linear, entire or obscurely few-toothed segments mostly $\frac{1}{16}$ inch wide and $\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{2}{3}$ inch long, the upper and rameal ones more or less reduced, with fewer segments, or undivided, many of them bearing one or more axillary bulbils. Umbels frequently wanting, or present but not maturing fruit, the rays mostly $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch long. Fruit orbicular, $\frac{1}{16}$ inch long, constricted at the commissure, the ribs broader than the narrow intervals.

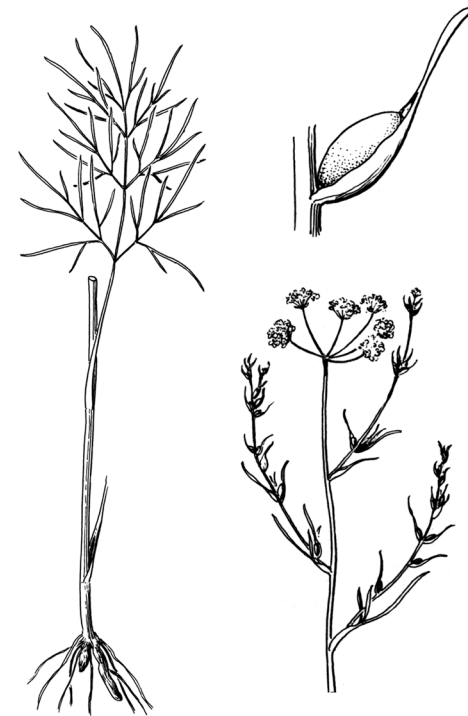
Identification Tips: This species can be distinguished from *Cicuta douglasii* by its narrow leaflet segments ($<\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide) and its bulblet bearing upper leaf axils.

Phenology: Identifiable August through September.

Range: The taxon is known from Newfoundland to British Columbia, south to Virginia, Indiana, Nebraska, and Oregon. In Washington, the taxon is known from Chelan, Pend Oreille, Stevens, and Whatcom counties in the Eastern Cascades, Okanogan Highlands, and Puget Trough physiographic provinces. There is also a historical location from Island County.

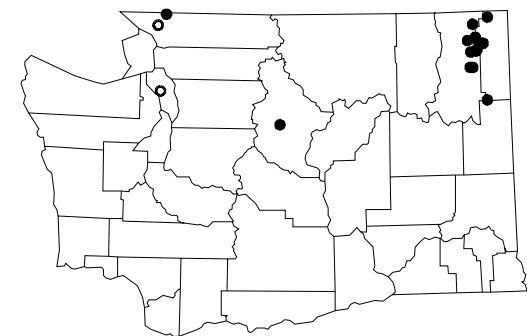
Habitat: Occurs along the edges of marshes and lake margins, in bogs, wet meadows, shallow standing water and along slow moving streams. It can grow on hummocks and floating mats as well as on partially submerged rotting logs and even on beaver dams. Some sites, but not all, have a significant *Sphagnum* component. Many sites are dominated by a variety of sedges, including *Carex utricularata*, *C. vesicaria*, *C. lenticularis*, *C. aurea*, and *C. limosa*, among others. Other graminoids commonly present include *Scirpus* spp., *Juncus ensifolius*, *Eriophorum gracile*, *Glyceria* spp. Other native species present include *Potentilla palustris*, *Menyanthes trifoliata*, *Equisetum* spp., and *Spiraea douglasii*. *Phalaris arundinacea* is also present at some sites. Elevation ranges from 240 to 3700 feet.

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Known distribution of
Cicuta bulbifera in
Washington



- Current (1980+)
- Historic (older than 1980)

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Ecology: *Cicuta bulbifera* is an obligate wetland species (USFWS 1988). Several of the known sites have obvious beaver activity, which presumably plays a role in the creation and maintenance of the wetlands complexes within which it occurs. It is extremely poisonous and should be handled with caution.

State Status Comments: The low number of occurrences and small population sizes contribute to the status of this species. In addition, the plants that occur in the Pacific Northwest may constitute a distinct variety of the species (Hitchcock et al. 1961).

Inventory Needs: Additional inventory is needed throughout the state. The historical location in Island County should be revisited.

Threats and Management Concerns: Threats to *Cicuta bulbifera* include grazing (although the species is extremely toxic to cattle), recreation, hydrologic change, and invasion of habitat by reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*).

References:

Hitchcock, C. L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. 1961. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 3: Saxifragaceae to Ericaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 614 pp.

Mulligan, G.A. 1980. The genus *Cicuta* in North America. *Can. J. Bot.* 58: 1755-1767.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1988. National list of vascular plant species that occur in wetlands. USFWS Biological Report 88 (24).