

Water Hemlock

Water hemlock (*Cicuta maculata*), has been identified as a weed growing in the Twin Beaches area of the RM of Woodlands. This perennial plant, native to North America, is usually found growing in wetlands along streams or in flooded areas. It begins growth in the spring, flowers in late spring or early summer and will grow 3 to 7 feet tall. Leaves are alternate, one per node, and the leaf veins terminate at the bottom of leaf serrations which distinguishes this species from others in the family. This plant can cause irritation to exposed skin and appropriate clothing complete with rubber gloves should be worn when handling. This plant is only poisonous when ingested with the rootstock being the most toxic. Precautions should be taken similar to poison ivy or stinging nettles with avoidance the best safety measure. Controls of this weed are limited but improved drainage will certainly help.