

WARNING TO DOG AND HORSE OWNERS.

Storms, spates or high tides can expose highly poisonous plant roots in this area. The plant is Hemlock Water Dropwort (*Oenanthe crocata*), possibly the most toxic plant native to the UK. It grows along the banks of rivers, ponds, lochs and drainage ditches and at the high water mark on beaches.

The green tops of the plant look like wild celery or wild parsley. The roots resemble parsnips or carrots.

Although the leaves and stalks are both poisonous it is the tuberous roots which are most toxic. These are exposed by erosion caused by flooding or very high tides.

Probably most at risk are horses and dogs which are accustomed to being given carrots as a snack. Ingesting even a small amount of Hemlock Water Dropwort root can cause a large dog to die in convulsions in less than half an hour.



Hemlock Water Dropwort can be mistaken for wild parsnip, wild celery or wild parsley. It is extremely toxic if eaten.

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