

Umbellievably Challenging Plant Match



1. Queen Anne's lace (*Daucus carota*)

Plants to 6 ft tall. Stems with short coarse hairs. Leaves 1-8 in long, compound, finely divided; petioles sheathed. Flower umbels flat, 1-5 in wide with 30-60 floral rays. Biennial. Non-native and invasive (native to Europe and southwest Asia). Slightly toxic to cattle, may irritate skin.

2. Water hemlock (*Cicuta maculata*)

Plants to 6 ft tall. Stems stout, glabrous. Leaves 4-12 in long and 3-10 in wide, bipinnately to tripinnately compound, leaflets lanceolate; petioles sheathed. Flower umbels broad, 2-5 in across; each umbel with about 20 floral rays. Perennial. Native throughout the United States. Extremely toxic.

3. Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)

Plants to 5 ft. Stems hollow, covered with small purple spots; smooth. Leaves 4-16 in long, tripinnately (sometimes 4-times) compound, petioles sheathed. Flower umbels 1.5-2.5 in wide with 10-15 floral rays. Biennial. Non-native and invasive (native to Europe and North Africa). Highly toxic.

4. Hairy angelica (*Angelica venenosa*)

Plants to 6.5 ft. Stems densely tomentose. Leaves 4-8 in long pinnately or bipinnately compound, petioles broadly sheathed. Flower umbels 2-6 in with 16-35 floral rays. Perennial. Native to the eastern United States.

5. Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)

Plants to 20 ft tall. Stems hollow, 6 in across with purple streaks and splotches. Leaves very large, lower leaves to 5 ft wide, with 3 to 5 deeply lobed leaflets, petioles sheathed. Flower umbels to 2 ft across; each umbel consisting of 50 or more floral rays. Biennial. Non-native and invasive (native to the Caucasus Mountains). Do not touch! Toxins can burn skin and cause blisters and lesions.

6. Cow parsnip (*Heracleum maximum*)

Plants to 10 ft. Stems pubescent to tomentose. Leaves up to 1.5 ft wide, petioles broadly sheathed. Flower umbels 4-8 in, across, flat, with 12-30 floral rays. Perennial. Rank-smelling. Native to the Northeast and throughout the Appalachian Mountains as well as the western US.

Notes:

1. A floral ray is a branch of an umbel (see arrow in image).
2. A sheathed petiole is flared at the base and may partly surround the stem.
3. All species, except for giant hogweed, serve as host plants for the larvae of the black swallowtail butterfly (*Papilio polyxenes*).
4. Measurements are approximate.

REFERENCES

- Fulton, J.P., J.M. Swearingen and C.T. Barger. *Mid-Atlantic Invaders Tool* (MAIT). University of Georgia, Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health, Tifton, GA. Access 2024.
- Marrison, D. 2024. Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*). Ohioline. ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/anr-35
- Weakley, A.S., J.C. Ludwig, J.F. Townsend, and B. Crowder. 2024. *Flora of Virginia*. Botanical Research Institute of Texas Press. pp. 1905-1920.