

Methods of Preventing Stock from Eating Death Camas.

—Care should be taken to see that stock are not tempted to eat death camas. The range should never be pastured down too closely. Observation of numerous cases leads to the conclusion that practically all losses occur when stock have been turned hungry upon pasture badly infested with death camas. Sheep, especially, should be given proper care when being transferred across a range where the death camas grows at all abundantly. Heavy losses have occurred when sheep have been allowed to consume large quantities of the plant while being driven across an infested area to the regular pasture ground. They should be allowed to fill up on good forage before they begin to move. Early in the morning they should be allowed to graze on good pasture before starting out.

If only small patches of death camas occur on the range, the plants may be grubbed out by loosening the soil with a spade, and then pulling up the bulbs. The plants should be grubbed out during the flowering period, as it is very difficult to distinguish the death camas plants from grasses, when the death camas plants are not in flower. The grubbing-out is most easily done when the soil is moist.

Since cultivation of the land readily eradicates death camas, it is sometimes advisable to break the land, and sow to some good grass mixture suitable to the district.

WATER HEMLOCK (*Cicuta maculata* L.).

The other common names by which the water hemlock is known in Alberta are poison parsnip, wild parsnip, cowbane, and beaver-poison.

The water hemlock is a tall, erect, marsh plant from two to six feet high. It may be regarded as a perennial. The stems are fairly stout, streaked with purple, bearing a few pale-green, doubly compound leaves, and many quite flat clusters of very small, greenish-white flowers. (See Plate III., opposite page 24).

The stems are green, streaked with purple, smooth, and hollow, except at the joints where the leaves are attached to the stem. (See Fig. 7, page 25). The stems occur singly, or in small clumps of from two to six, and spring up from the underground part of the stem, or rootstock. The rootstock is short, thick, somewhat spherical, and varies in diameter from one-half inch to three inches. The interior of the rootstock is clearly divided by partitions into chambers running at right angles to the main stem. (See Fig. 7, page 25). In the spring these chambers are filled with a liquid, but later they become empty.