



POISONOUS CULTIVATED AND WILD PLANTS

From a 1986 Publication of the Maine Poison Control Center - 1-800-442-6305

The following is a listing of many of the poisonous plants most common to this area. This list is by no means complete. There are many more plants not included in this list which may also be toxic.

	<u>TOXIC PART</u>	<u>SYMPTOMS-DEGREE OF TOXICITY</u>
HOUSE PLANTS		
Caladium (Elephant Ear)	All parts	Intense burning and irritation of the tongue and mouth. Death can occur if the base of the tongue swells blocking air passage of the throat.
English Holly	Berries	Severe gastroenteritis.
English Ivy	Leaves. Berries.	Stomach pains. Labored breathing. Possibly Coma.
Hyacinth, Narcissus, Daffodil, Autumn Crocus	Bulbs.	Nausea. Vomiting. Diarrhea. May be fatal.
Mistletoe	All, especially berries.	Fatal. Both children and adults have died from eating the berries.
Oleander	All parts.	Extremely toxic. Severe digestive upsets. A single leaf can kill a child. Oleander affects the heart. Contact dermatitis.
Rosary pea, Castor Bean	Seeds. Foliage.	Burning in mouth. Convulsions followed by death. A single rosary pea seed or castor bean seed can be fatal.
FLOWER GARDEN		
Bleeding Heart, Dutchman's	Foliage. Roots.	Nervous symptoms. Convulsions. May be poisonous in large amounts. Has proven fatal to cattle.
Breeches, Poppies		
Delphinium, Larkspur, Belladonna	Young plants. Seeds.	Nausea. Nervous symptoms. Twitching muscles. Paralysis. Death.
Foxglove	Leaves. Seeds. Flowers.	Irregular heartbeat and pulse, usually accompanied by digestive upset and mental confusion. May be fatal.

Iris, Blue Flag	Fleshy underground portions.	Severe, but not usually serious digestive upset.
Lily-of-the-Valley	Leaves. Flowers.	Irregular heartbeat and pulse, usually accompanied by digestive upset and mental confusion. May be fatal.
Lupine	All, especially ripe seeds.	Breathing difficulty. Death.
Monkshood	All, especially roots.	Digestive upset and nervous excitement. Juice in plant parts fatal.
Peony	Roots.	Juice can cause paralysis.
Snowdrops	Bulbs.	Vomiting and nervous excitement.
Pea	All, especially seeds.	Sweet Paralysis. Slow weak pulse. Respiratory depression. Convulsions.

VEGETABLE GARDEN

Potato	Foliage. Green parts of vegetable.	Intensive digestive disturbances and nervous symptoms.
	TOXIC PART	SYMPTOMS-DEGREE OF TOXICITY

PLANTS SHRUBS TREES

Azaleas, Laurels, Rhododendron	All parts.	Nausea. Vomiting. Depression. Difficult breathing. Prostration. Coma. Fatal.
Black locust	Bark. Foliage. Seeds.	Children have suffered nausea, vomiting, weakness.& depression after chewing the bark and seeds.
Cherry, Peach Daphne	Twigs. Foliage. Berries.	Gasping. Excitement. Prostration. Severe burns to mouth and digestive tract followed by coma and death. A few berries can be fatal.
Elderberry	All parts especially roots.	Nausea and digestive upset. Children have been poisoned by using pieces of the pithy stems for blowguns.
Goldenchain	All parts, especially seeds which are suspended in bean-like capsules.	Excitement. Staggering. Convulsions. Coma. May be fatal.
Horsechestnut	All parts.	Nausea. Twitching muscles. Sometimes paralysis.
Hydrangea	Buds, leaves, branches.	Severe digestive upset. Gasping. Convulsions. Sometimes death.
Jessamine, Jasmine	Berries.	Digestive disturbance. Nervous symptoms. Fatal.
Oaks	Foliage. Acorns.	Affects kidneys gradually. Symptoms appear only after several days or weeks. Takes a large amount for poisoning but children should not be allowed to chew on acorns.
Privet	Berries. Leaves.	Mild to severe digestive disturbances. May be fatal.
Wisteria	Seeds. Pods.	Mild to severe digestive disturbances.
Yew	Berries. Foliage.	Depresses heart action. Death is usually sudden without warning symptoms. Foliage more toxic than berries.

WILD PLANTS

Baneberry	All parts.	Stomach and intestinal irritation. Spasms.
Bittersweet	Leaves. Seeds. Roots.	Vomiting. Diarrhea. Chills. Convulsions. Coma.
Buttercups	All parts.	Irritant juices may severely injure the digestive system.
False Hellebore	Leaves	Burning and swelling of mouth, tongue and throat. Large quantities may cause stomach and intestinal irritation.
Jack-in-the-Pulpit	All parts, especially roots.	Contains small needle-like crystals of calcium oxalate that cause intense irritation and burning of the tongue and mouth.
Jimson Weed (Thorn Apple)	All parts.	Abnormal thirst, distorted sight, delirium, incoherence and coma. Common cause of poisoning. Has proved fatal.
Marsh Marigold	All parts.	Irritation of oral tissues. Digestive upset. Diarrhea. Respiratory depression and convulsions.
Mayapple	Unripe apples. Leaves.	Contains at least 16 active toxic principles, primarily in the roots. Children often eat the apple with no ill effects, but several apples may cause diarrhea and severe digestive upset.
Moonseed	Roots. Berries	Blue, purple color, resembling wild grapes. May be fatal.
Morning Glory	Seeds.	Large amounts cause severe mental disturbances followed by death.
Nightshade	All parts, especially the unripened berry.	Fatal. Intense digestive disturbance and nervous symptoms.
Poison Hemlock	All parts	Fatal. Resembles a large wild carrot.
Star of Bethlehem	Bulb	Vomiting and nausea.
Virginia Creeper.	Berries	Acute stomach and intestinal irritation. Diarrhea Large quantities may be fatal.
Water Hemlock	All parts.	Fatal. Violent and painful convulsions. A number of people have died from hemlock.