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POISONOUS PLANTS OF HOME AND GARDEN

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Perhaps unknowingly, we have cultivated a number of poisonous plants around us in our homes and gardens. They are not only a problem for us, especially children, but for our pets. Many of these plants cause relatively minor problems, such as mild cases of skin rash (dermatitis) or digestive system disturbance. Others are potentially lethal. This list is limited to ferns, gymnosperms, and flowering plants. I have focused on more popular ornamentals. I have not included food plants. Two abbreviations appear below: GI for gastrointestinal and CV for cardiovascular.

Common Name • Scientific Name

African blue lily • *Agapanthus* spp.
Amaryllis • *Hippeastrum* spp.
Angel's trumpet • *Brugmansia* spp.
Autumn-crocus • *Colchicum autumnale*
Azalea • *Rhododendron* spp.

Baby's-breath • *Gypsophila paniculata*
Barbados aloe • *Aloë barbadensis*
Begonia • *Begonia* spp.
Bird-of-paradise • *Caesalpinia gilliesii*
Bird-of-paradise • *Strelitzia* spp.
Black henbane • *Hyoscyamus niger*
Bleeding hearts • *Dicentra* spp.
Blood lily • *Haemanthus* spp.
Boxwood • *Buxus sempervirens*

Caladium • *Caladium* spp.
California bay • *Umbellularia californica*
Calla-lily • *Zantedeschia aethiopica*
Cape plumbago • *Plumbago auriculata*
Castor bean • *Ricinus communis*
Carnation • *Dianthus caryophyllus*
Carolina jessamine • *Gelsemium sempervirens*
Century plant • *Agave americana*
Chalice vine • *Solandra* spp.
Cherry tree • *Prunus* spp.
Chinese evergreen • *Aglaonema modestum*
Chinese tallow tree • *Triadica sebifera*
Christmas-rose • *Helleborus niger*
Coral plant • *Jatropha* spp.
Cotoneaster • *Cotoneaster* spp.
Croton • *Codiaeum* spp.
Cuckoopint • *Arum maculatum*
Cyclamen • *Cyclamen* spp.

Daffodil • *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*
Daphne • *Daphne mezereum*
Deadly nightshade • *Atropa belladonna*
Desert-rose • *Adenium obesum*
Devil's ivy • *Epipremum aureum*
Dracaena • *Dracaena* spp.
Dumbcane • *Dieffenbachia* spp.

Elderberry • *Sambucus* spp.
Elephant's-ear • *Alocasia* spp.
Elephant's-ear • *Xanthosoma* spp.
English holly • *Ilex aquifolium*
English ivy • *Hedera helix*

Fig • *Ficus* spp.
Fishtail palm • *Caryota* spp.

Toxic Part(s) • Symptoms

All parts • irritation to mucous membranes; swollen tongue
Bulbs • upset stomach, convulsions
All parts • rapid heartbeat, dilated pupils, hot/dry skin
All parts • nausea, diarrhea, circulatory collapse
All parts • vomiting, low blood pressure, convulsions

All parts • GI; respiratory irritation
Leaves • vomiting; severe diarrhea
All parts • vomiting, purging, diuretic
Pods and seeds • intestinal irritation, vomiting, diarrhea
Fruits and seeds • vomiting, diarrhea, dizziness, drowsiness
All parts • flushed skin; hallucinations; dilated pupils
Leaves and roots • trembling, staggering, convulsions
Leaves and bulbs • salivation; GI
Stems and leaves • stomach pains, vomiting, diarrhea

All parts • irritation of mouth and throat
Leaves, essential oil • dermatitis, headache, eye irritation
All parts • irritation of mouth and throat
All parts • dermatitis, eye irritation, stomach irritation
All parts, esp. seeds! • burning in mouth/throat, vomiting, diarrhea
Leaves • dermatitis; GI
All parts, esp. roots • nausea; pupil dilation; respiratory distress
Sap • skin and mucosal irritation; edema
Flowers, leaves • vomiting, diarrhea, pupils dilate
Stems, leaves, pits • twitching, difficult breathing, coma
All parts • irritation of the mouth and throat; edema
Leaves, fruits, sap • dermatitis
Rootstocks, leaves • upset stomach, purging, numbing of mouth
All parts, esp. seeds • dermatitis; multiple organ hemorrhaging
Leaves, berries (in excess) • GI; convulsions; blurred vision
All parts • rash, irritation of mouth and throat
All parts • symptoms associated with cyanide poisoning
Tubers • rash in sensitive individuals

Bulbs • vomiting, diarrhea, trembling, convulsions
Fruits, bark, leaves • vomiting, diarrhea, stupor, convulsions
All parts • nausea, dilated pupils; impaired movement
Sap • CV; GI distress
All parts • irritation of the mouth and throat
Leaves (resin) • GI irritation
All parts, esp. sap • irritation of mouth and throat, voice loss

Most parts • nausea, digestive upset
All parts • irritation of mouth and throat and GI tract
All parts • irritation of mouth and throat and GI tract
Leaves, fruits, seeds • Abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea
All parts • excitement, difficult breathing, coma

Sap • dermatitis
Fruits • dermatitis from calcium oxalate raphides

Flag • <i>Iris germanica</i> Foxglove • <i>Digitalis purpurea</i> Four o'clock • <i>Mirabilis jalapa</i> French marigold • <i>Tagetes patula</i>	Seeds, rhizomes • dermatitis; GI All parts • irregular heartbeat and pulse, digestive upset Roots and seeds • vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain Leaves, flowers • dermatitis
Ginkgo • <i>Ginkgo biloba</i> Golden chain tree • <i>Laburnum anagyroides</i>	Seeds • contact dermatitis; GI; confusion, convulsions Pods and seeds • incoordination, vomiting, convulsions, coma
Hellebore • <i>Helleborus</i> spp. Holly • <i>Ilex</i> spp. Hollyhock • <i>Alcea rosea</i> Honeysuckle • <i>Lonicera japonica</i> Hyacinth • <i>Hyacinthus</i> spp. Hydrangea • <i>Hydrangea</i> spp.	All parts • dermatitis; GI, CV Fruits • vomiting, diarrhea, stupor All parts • dermatitis; irritation of mouth Leaves, berries • dermatitis, GI irritation Bulbs • intense indigestion Leaves and buds • nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
Iris • <i>Iris</i> spp.	Leaves and roots • rash, severe digestive upset, purging
Japanese aucuba • <i>Aucuba japonica</i> Jerusalem-cherry • <i>Solanum pseudocapsicum</i>	All parts, esp. fruits • GI Leaves, fruits • nausea, GI distress, bradycardia, dilated pupils
Kaffir lily • <i>Clivia miniata</i> Kalanchoe • <i>Kalanchoë</i> spp.	Bulbs, fruits • GI irritation; excessive drooling Leaves • rapid breathing, teeth grinding, ataxia
Larkspur, stagger weed • <i>Delphinium</i> spp. Lily-of-the-valley • <i>Convallaria majalis</i> Love-in-a-mist • <i>Nigella damascena</i> Lupines • <i>Lupinus</i> spp.	All parts • digestive upset, excitement/depression Most parts • heart stimulant, dizziness, vomiting Seeds • vomiting, diarrhea Stems, leaves (young) • headache, GI, CV
Monk's-hood, wolf's bane • <i>Aconitum</i> spp. Morning glory • <i>Ipomoea</i> spp. Moses-in-the-creadle • <i>Rhoeo spathacea</i> Mother-in-law's-tongue Mountain-laurel • <i>Kalmia latifolia</i> Myoporum • <i>Myoporum laetum</i>	Roots, seeds, leaves • tingling lips/tongue, slowing heart rate Seeds • nausea, euphoria, hallucinations All parts • dermatitis Leaves, flowers • salivation; GI distress All parts • impaired skeletal and heart muscle function Leaves • jaundice, photosensitization; abdominal pain
Naked ladies • <i>Amaryllis belladonna</i> Nasturtium • <i>Tropaeolum majus</i> Nepenthes • <i>Syngonium podophyllum</i> Nightshade • <i>Solanum</i> spp.	All parts • dermatitis, severe GI distress All parts • , esp. seeds • GI; kidney damage All parts • severe irritation to oral cavity and GI All parts • nausea, GI distress, bradycardia, dilated pupils
Oleander • <i>Nerium oleander</i>	All parts • nausea, irregular pulse, paralysis
Peace-lily • <i>Spathiphyllum</i> spp. Periwinkle • <i>Catharanthus roseus</i> Peruvian lily • <i>Alstroemeria aurantiaca</i> Pheasant's-eye • <i>Adonis</i> spp. Philodendron • <i>Philodendron</i> spp. Pieris • <i>Pieris japonica</i> Poinsettia • <i>Euphorbia pulcherrima</i> Poppy • <i>Papaver</i> spp. Primrose • <i>Primula obconica</i> Privet • <i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	All parts • intense pain and swelling of mouth All parts • GI distress; CV damage All parts • occupational dermatitis All parts • CV All parts • irritation of mouth and throat All parts • vomiting, low blood pressure, convulsions Most parts • rash, vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea Most parts • stupor, coma, slow breathing Leaves • rash in sensitive individuals Fruits • upset stomach, pain, vomiting, diarrhea
Red sage • <i>Lantana camara</i> Rhododendron • <i>Rhododendron</i> spp. Rosary pea • <i>Abrus precatorius</i> Rubber plant • <i>Ficus elastica</i> Rue • <i>Ruta graveolens</i>	Fruits • intestinal upset, muscular weakness All parts • vomiting, low blood pressure, convulsions Seeds • inhibits protein synthesis Sap • dermatitis All parts • dermatitis
Sago-palm • <i>Cycas revoluta</i> Shooting stars • <i>Cyclamen</i> spp. Silk-Oak • <i>Grevillea robusta</i> Snow drop • <i>Galanthus nivalis</i> Spider plant • <i>Chlorophytum</i> spp. Split-leaved philodendron • <i>Monstera deliciosa</i> Spurge • <i>Euphorbia</i> spp. Squill • <i>Scilla</i> spp. Star-of-Bethlehem • <i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i> Sweet pea • <i>Lathyrus odoratus</i>	All parts, esp. seeds • GI; blood clotting problems; liver damage Rhizomes • GI irritation; convulsions; paralysis Flowers, fruits • dermatitis All parts, esp. bulbs • GI; CV Leaves, plantlets • GI distress All parts • irritation of mouth/throat; GI irritation Sap • mild to severe dermatitis All parts, esp. bulbs • dermatitis; CV All parts, esp. bulbs • CV Seeds (in excess) • paralysis
Tulip • <i>Tulipa</i> spp.	Bulbs • vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain
Umbrella tree • <i>Schefflera</i> spp.	Leaves • mucous membrane irritation; salivation; GI distress

Violet • <i>Viola odorata</i>	All parts • CV; diuretic and laxative effects
Wisteria • <i>Wisteria</i> spp.	Fruits, seeds • vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain
Yellow allamanda • <i>Allamanda cathartica</i>	Most parts • dermatitis; GI distress
Yellow-oleander • <i>Cascabela thevetia</i>	All parts • vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, headache
Yew • <i>Taxus</i> spp.	All parts • vomiting, diarrhea, circulatory collapse

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