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