

## Poisonous Garden Plants

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Poisonous plants are all around us in our parks, gardens and even in the veggie patch! The word “poisonous” should suggest a warning rather than create fear. Left alone these plants are harmless. However, certain plant parts, if ingested by humans or pets, can produce unpleasant effects. The toxicity of each plant varies widely. In many cases very large quantities would have to be eaten to have negative effects. In other cases even small amounts can be dangerous. In general, one should never eat an unknown plant or its parts without first doing some research. By educating yourself and your family you can coexist happily with these beautiful and useful plants.

The following list includes common garden plants that have poisonous parts.

- *Aconitum* – Monkshood (All parts)
- *Actaea pachypoda* – Doll’s Eyes (All parts)
- *Aquilegia* – Columbine (Seeds, roots)
- *Arum italicum* – Italian Arum (All parts, especially fruit)
- *Asclepias* – Milkweed (Sap)
- *Brugmansia* – Angel’s Trumpet (All parts)
- *Colchicum* – Autumn Crocus (Bulbs)
- *Convallaria* – Lily-of-the-Valley (All parts)
- *Cytisus scoparius* – Scotch Broom (All parts?)
- *Datura* – Thorn Apple (All parts)
- *Delphinium* – Larkspur (Young plants, seeds)
- *Dicentra* – Bleeding Heart (All parts)
- *Digitalis purpurea* – Foxglove (All parts)
- *Euphorbia* – Spurge (Sap)
- *Hedera helix* – Common Ivy (Leaves, fruit)
- *Helleborus niger* – Christmas Rose (All parts?)
- *Hyacinthus* – Hyacinth (Bulbs)
- *Ilex aquifolium* – European Holly (Fruit)
- *Laburnum* – Golden Chain Tree (All parts)
- *Lilium* – Lily (All parts)
- *Malus* – Apple (Seeds)
- *Narcissus* – Daffodil (Bulbs)
- *Nerium oleander* – Oleander (All parts)
- *Passiflora caerulea* – Blue Passion Flower (Leaves)
- *Podophyllum peltatum* – Mayapple
- *Prunus* spp. – Cherry, Peach, Plum, Apricot (Leaves, Seeds)
- *Rheum rhaponticum* – Rhubarb (Leaves)

- *Rhododendron* – Rhododendron, Azalea (All parts, pollen, nectar)
- *Ricinus communis* – Castor Bean (Seeds)
- *Robinia* – Black Locust (Fruit, seed, bark, flower)
- *Sambucus* – Elderberry (Roots)
- *Sanguinaria canadensis* – Bloodroot (Rhizome)
- *Solanum* spp. – Tomatoes (Leaves, stems), Potatoes (Leaves, stems, fruit)
- *Taxus baccata* – English Yew (All parts)
- *Wisteria* – Wisteria (Seeds)
- *Zantedeschia* – Calla Lily (All parts)