



Most Poisonous Plants



Part 1



= ingestion of plant



= skin/eye contact with plant

Latin Name	Common Name	Concern
Aconitum	monkshood wolf's bane	
Arum	cuckoo pint lords-and-ladies	
Atropa belladonna	deadly nightshade	
Cicuta Virosa	cowbane water hemlock	
Colchicum	autumn crocus naked ladies	
Conium Maculatum	hemlock	
Convallaria	lily-of-the-valley	
Coriaria	tutu	
Daphne	mezereon spurge laurel	
Datura	jimsonweed thornapple	
Digitalis	foxglove	



Most Poisonous Plants

Part 2



Latin Name	Common Name	Concern
Euphorbia	spurge	I C
Heracleum	hogweed	C
Hyoscyamus	henbane	I C
Laburnum	golden rain	C
Mandragora	mandrake	I C
Oenanthe crocata	hemlock water dropwort	I
Phytolacca	inkberry pokeweed	I C
Rhus radicans	poison ivy	I C
Scopolia	Russian belladonna	I
Solanum dulcamara	woody nightshade	I
Sophora	kowhai	I
Taxus	yew	I C
Zigadenus	death camas	I C



Latin Name: Aconitum
Common Name: monkshood, wolfsbane



Key Features:

- Found growing on stream banks.
- Growth during spring.
- Leaves are lobed and toothed.
- Summer Hooded Flower Colours – blue, purple, yellow, pink or white.
- Flowers grow in dense or loose spikes.
- Lobed capsules form fruit.

Possible Symptoms:

Ingestion: nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, headache, numbness of mouth, lips and limbs, pins and needles and muscle weakness, sweating, dizziness, confusion, increased frequency and/or depth of breathing. **Severe cases:** convulsions, physical restlessness and/or incoherence, coma, low blood pressure and irregular heart rhythm.

Contact: irritation of exposed skin. Mild poisoning leading to nausea, headache and rapid heart beats occurs in very rare cases.

Risk:

- Ingestion can lead to severe poisoning.
- Contact can cause poisoning.



Latin Name: Arum
Common Name: cuckoo pint, lords-and-ladies



Key Features:

- Found at the bottom of hedges and shaded areas
- Large leaves – sometimes patterned
- Unusual Flowers
- Orange/scarlet berries (3-14mm)

Possible Symptoms:

Ingestion: salivation, burning sensation in mouth or throat, swelling of lips, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, drowsiness and dizziness.

Contact: Sap may cause irritation when in contact with skin or eyes.

Risk:

- Ingestion causes mild to moderate poisoning.
- Contact with sap may cause irritation.



Latin Name: *Atropa belladonna*
Common Name: deadly nightshade



Key Features:

- An uncommon native plant.
- Plants grow in field layer of woodland and in hedgerows.
- Simple Green Leaves.
- Purplish, bell-shaped flowers in summer.
- Black single berries develop.
- Berries have a leafy area at the base (calyx).

Risk:

- Ingestion can lead to severe poisoning.
- Contact can lead to dermatitis or eye irritation.

Possible Symptoms:

Ingestion: dry mouth, blurred vision and dilated pupils, increased heart rate, warm and dry skin, reduced bowel sounds, difficulty in passing urine, disturbed vision.

Contact: dermatitis. Dilated eyes if touched by plant or sap.



Latin Name: *Cicuta Virosa*
Common Name: cowbane, water hemlock



Key Features:

- Rare wild plant
- Found in shallow, fresh water
- Base roots have hollow chambers
- Large leaves, with long hollow leaf stalk, the blade is formed from many leaflets
- Small white flowers
- Flowers form flat-topped heads

Possible Symptoms:

Ingestion: rapid onset of burning sensation in mouth, nausea, prolonged vomiting, dizziness, dilated pupils, increased breathing, increased heart rate, drowsiness and severe convulsions.

Risk:

- Ingestion results in severe poisoning.



Latin Name: Colchicum

Common Name: autumn crocus, naked ladies



Key Features:

- Found in damp meadows and woods
- Similar to large crocuses
- Flowers in Autumn
- Flowers can be purple, pink or white
- Large Strap shaped spring leaves.
- Rattling seed pods when dry.

Possible Symptoms:

Ingestion: Mouth irritation

After 2-12 hours: nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, increased heart rate, chest pain.

Severe poisoning: low blood pressure, low heart rate, convulsions, irregular heart rhythm **can lead to death.**

Contact: skin irritation, long contact may cause mild poisoning.

Risk:

- Ingestion can cause severe poisoning.
- Contact may result in mild poisoning.



Latin Name: Conium Maculatum

Common Name: hemlock



Key Features:

- Often found on roadside
- Likes damp growing conditions
- Feathery, purple-spotted stems
- Dark green leaves with unpleasant smell once crushed
- Flowers spring to summer
- Small white flowers in flat heads

Possible Symptoms:

Ingestion: gastrointestinal upset common symptom.

In rare cases of significant ingestion: increased heart rate, increased breathing rate and blood pressure followed by a sudden drop.

In Severe cases: convulsions, muscular paralysis, respiratory failure and kidney poisoning.

Contact: burning sensation, numbness, dermatitis, prolonged exposure mild symptoms as shown above. Irritation if contact made with eyes.

Risk:

- Ingestion results in severe poisoning.
- Contact may result in mild poisoning.



Latin Name: Convallaria
Common Name: lily-of-the-valley



Key Features:

- Small native plants
- Found in woodland and partly shaded areas.
- Slender heads of fragrant, white or occasionally pink, nodding, bell-shaped flowers.
- Just 2-3 simple leaves.
- Produces 8-10mm orange or red berries.
- Berries have a bitter taste.

Risk:

- Extensive ingestion results in severe poisoning.
- Contact may cause dermatitis.

Possible Symptoms:

Ingestion: gastrointestinal irritation, nausea and vomiting. **In rare cases following significant ingestion:** reduced heart rate and blood pressure.
Contact: dermatitis.



Latin Name: Coriaria
Common Name: tutu



Key Features:

- Small trees and large shrubs
- Arching branches
- Simple paired leaves
- Small red flowers in spring
- Black, red or yellow 5-12mm fruits

Possible Symptoms:

Ingestion: vomiting, abdominal pain.
In Severe cases: neurological symptoms, coma, visual difficulties, muscle tightness, convulsions, fever, agitation, disorientation.
In Rare Cases: blood and metabolic toxicity.

Risk:

- Ingestion results in moderate poisoning.



Latin Name: Daphne
Common Name: mezereon, spurge laurel



Key Features:

- Small-medium deciduous and evergreen shrubs
- Often found in woodland
- Simple leaves
- Flowers in Spring-Summer
- Flowers are tubular in shape and can be green, pink, white or yellow
- 6-14mm black, red or yellow berries

Possible Symptoms:

Small Ingestion: burning sensation in mouth and throat, nausea, abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhoea.

Large Ingestion: pallor, dilated pupils, severe vomiting, bloody diarrhoea, stomach lining blisters, convulsions. Kidney damage may occur.

Contact: Skin irritation and possible blistering.

Risk:

- Ingestion results in severe poisoning.
- Contact causes irritation/blistering.



Latin Name: Datura
Common Name: jimsonweed, thornapple



Key Features:

- Found in woodland or cultivated land
- Pungent aroma from large leaves.
- Leaves are simple or have jagged teeth.
- Large, sweetly fragrant, trumpet shaped flowers.
- Flower colours in white, cream or mauve.
- Egg shaped 25-70 mm spiny capsule protects the seeds.

Possible Symptoms:

Ingestion: dry mouth, blurred vision, dilated pupils, reduced bowel sounds, difficulty in passing urine, disturbed vision, increased heart rate, flushed face.

Eye Contact: plant material or sap may cause dilated pupil(s).

Risk:

- Ingestion results in severe poisoning.
- Eye contact dilates pupils.



Latin Name: Digitalis
Common Name: foxglove



Key Features:

- Common wild plant found on the edge of woods
- Simple, smooth, softly hairy leaves
- Tall spires of tubular purple, pink, white, yellow or orange flowers.
- Flowers between summer and early autumn.
- Fruit forms in small capsules.

Possible Symptoms:

Ingestion: gastrointestinal effects, oral/abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea. Severe Cases: visual and perceptual disturbances and heart and kidney problems.

Contact: can cause irritation.

Risk:

- Ingestion results in severe poisoning.
- Contact can cause irritation.



Latin Name: Euphorbia
Common Name: spurge



Key Features:

- Many different classes
- Distinctive white sap
- Linear or oval leaves
- Flowers spring-summer
- Small flowers with showy bracts.
- Flowers often in large heads.
- Explosive seed capsules when ripe.

Possible Symptoms:

Ingestion: nausea, salivation, vomiting, diarrhoea, burning sensation on lips and tongue.

Contact: irritation, possible delay in irritation, redness, itching, swelling, possible blistering. **Eye**

Contact: severe irritation, pain, eye watering, swelling, decreased visual acuity, severe conjunctivitis and temporary blindness.

Risk:

- Ingestion + contact can cause mild to moderate poisoning.



Latin Name: Heracleum
Common Name: hogweed



Key Features:

- Found in wild close to water
- Ridged hollow stems with purple dots
- Large leaves either lobed, blunt or toothed
- Heads of small white or pinkish flowers
- Flowers are larger on the outer edge of the head
- Flowers spring-summer

Possible Symptoms:

Contact: in combination with sunlight causes redness, swelling and burnlike lesions in less than 24 hours. Blisters within 48 hours. Itchy and painful in surrounding areas. Subsides within 48 hours, can leave brown pigmentation for several months. Hypersensitivity to sun can last for years in affected areas.

Risk:

- Contact results in moderate effects.



Latin Name: Hyoscyamus
Common Name: henbane



Key Features:

- Often found near the coast
- Sticky, strong aroma, softly hairy plants
- Large, jagged toothed leaves
- Summer yellow purple veined flowers.
- Capsuled fruit.

Possible Symptoms:

Ingestion: dry mouth, blurred vision, warm/dry skin, dilated pupils, drowsiness, confusion, increased heart rate, reduced bowel sounds, difficulty in passing urine, disturbed vision or perception.

Contact: blistering and dermatitis. Contact with eyes can dilate the pupils.

Risk:

- Small quantities may result in moderate poisoning.
- Contact causes blistering/dermatitis.



Latin Name: Laburnum
Common Name: golden rain



Key Features:

- Only occasionally found in the wild
- Three leaflet leaves
- Heads of hanging yellow flowers in late spring
- Followed by green pods in the summer
- Pods change from green, to brown and then black

Possible Symptoms:

Ingestion: burning sensation in the throat, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhoea.

Later symptoms: headache, dizziness, confusion, dilated pupils, clammy skin, increased heart rate, increased temperature, difficulty breathing, drowsiness.

Substantial consumption: convulsions, respiratory failure, coma

Risk:

- Ingestion of small amounts moderate poisoning.
- Ingestion of large amounts severe poisoning.



Latin Name: Mandragora
Common Name: mandrake



Key Features:

- Long branching tap-root
- Rosette of large leaves
- Violet to greenish- white flowers appear autumn-spring
- 30-60mm green fruit which ripens to yellow or orange

Possible Symptoms:

Ingestion: dry mouth, blurred vision, warm/dry skin, dilated pupils, confusion, increased heart rate, reduced bowel sounds, difficulty in urination, disturbed vision/perception.

Eye contact: plant and sap contact with eyes may cause dilated pupil(s).

Risk:

- Ingestion leads to moderate poisoning.
- Contact with eyes causes dilation.



Latin Name: *Oenanthe crocata*
Common Name: hemlock water dropwort



Key Features:

- Grows in wet/moist soils
- Rounded heads of small white flowers
- Leaves are small and teathed

Risk:

- Ingestion results in severe poisoning.

Possible Symptoms:

Ingestion: Rapid onset nausea, dizziness, dilated pupils, increased breathing rate, increased heart rate, drowsiness, severe convulsions, **death may occur.**



Latin Name: *Phytolacca*
Common Name: inkberry, pokeweed



Key Features:

- Only occasionally found in the wild
- Tall, branching stems
- Large simple leaves
- Small, white or pink flowers positioned on long spikes
- Purple-black, shiny, 6-10mm, juicy berries
- Berries made up of numerous segments

Risk:

- Ingestion of small amounts moderate poisoning.
- Ingestion of large amounts severe poisoning.
- Contact causes irritation.

Possible Symptoms:

Ingestion: burning sensation in mouth/throat, salivation, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, lethargy, weakness, severe fluid loss, low blood pressure.
Large quantities: breathing difficulties, convulsions, irregular heart rhythm.
Contact: causes skin irritation.



Latin Name: *Rhus radicans*

Common Name: poison ivy



Key Features:

- Rarely seen in the wild
- Thin leaves
- Found in 3-7 leaflets
- Leaves turn yellow, red or purple before dropping in autumn
- Breaks in leaves or stems weep sap; weeping sap turns black

Possible Symptoms:

Ingestion: nausea, vomiting, drowsiness.

Contact: taking up to 2-3 weeks to manifest, severe dermatitis, blistering, ulceration, staining/pigmentation of skin.

Eye exposure: conjunctivitis, severe swelling of eyelids.

Inhalation of burning plant: nausea, vomiting, swelling of throat, difficulty in breathing.

Risk:

- Ingestion may cause mild poisoning.
- Contact causes severe poisoning.



Latin Name: *Scopolia*

Common Name: Russian belladonna



Key Features:

- Shade tolerant plants that die back after flowering
- Spring brings short, fleshy, leafy stems
- Flower grows where leaf meets stem
- Dull yellow/reddish/purple bell shaped flowers
- Flowers are coloured yellow inside

Possible Symptoms:

Ingestion: dry mouth, blurred vision, dilated pupils, increased heart rate, warm/dry skin, reduced bowel sounds, difficulty in passing urine, disturbed vision/perception.

Risk:

- Ingestion results in severe poisoning.



Latin Name: Solanum dulcamara
Common Name: woody nightshade



Key Features:

- Common climbing plant
- Found in hedges, woodland and waste-ground
- Either simple leaves or 1-4 base lobes
- Clusters of purple flowers
- 6-15mm berries
- Red or orange ripe berries in summer

Possible Symptoms:

Ingestion: intensely bitter taste, sweet aftertaste, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, drowsiness, irritation of mouth and throat, headache, thirst, dizziness, weakness, fever, increased heart rate, difficulty breathing

Risk:

- Ingestion results in moderate poisoning.



Latin Name: Sophora
Common Name: kowhai



Key Features:

- Not commonly found in the wild.
- Forms small shrubs or trees.
- Thrives in shady/sheltered spots
- Leaves have two rows of numerous leaflets.
 - Clusters of yellow flowers
- Sometimes blue and white flowers have been seen
 - Fruit 30-120mm occasionally seen

Possible Symptoms:

Ingestion: gastrointestinal upset, increase in heart rate, increase in breathing rate, increase in blood pressure.

Large ingestion: above symptoms followed by sudden decrease in heart rate, breathing rate and blood pressure.

Risk:

- Ingestion results in mild poisoning.



Latin Name: Taxus
Common Name: yew



Key Features:

- Trees and shrubs
- Found in countryside and woods
- Small, straight, dark, green, densely packed leaves
- Female plants bear fleshy, 7-11mm, red /yellow fruits
- Each fruit hides a single green, 5-7mm seed

Possible Symptoms:

Ingestion: vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, dizziness, muscle weakness, lethargy.

Severe Cases: low blood pressure, breathing difficulties, convulsions, coma, cardiac effects, acute anaphylaxis.

Contact: wood handling can cause inflammation.

Risk:

- Ingestion of small amounts moderate poisoning.
- Ingestion of large amounts severe poisoning.



Latin Name: Zigadenus
Common Name: death camas



Key Features:

- Not commonly found in the wild
- Shade loving plants
- Linear, keeled leaves
- Heads of small greenish, yellowish -white, star-shaped flowers
- Flowers positioned on long stems

Possible Symptoms:

Ingestion of bulbs: nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, diarrhoea, decrease in pulse, decrease in blood pressure, lack of coordination, muscle twitching. Cardiovascular symptoms either resolve or **lead to death**. Gastrointestinal symptoms may persist for 48 hours.

Contact: leads to skin irritation

Risk:

- Ingestion results in severe poisoning.
- Contact leads to irritation.