Buckingham Elementary School Gardens 2011-2012

POISONOUS PLANTS (short list)

Just because a plant is not on this list, doesn’t mean it’s not poisonous.

This is only a short, partial list of known poisonous plants. Please check the more comprehensive Poisonous Plants master list, if you have further questions. Because it’s impossible to avoid the many landscape, houseplants and wild plants which are considered poisonous in varying degrees, exercise caution and common sense while enjoying the plants and flowers in our natural world. Please remind children to never put any part of a plant into their mouths without an adult’s permission.

Note that sometimes one part of a specific plant might be considered safe or even edible (such as the fruit of a ripe tomato), but another part of the same plant is considered poisonous (tomato leaves and stems).

Don’t assume that a plant is not poisonous, just because birds or other wildlife eat it. Conversely, some plants that are safe for humans are toxic to certain animals.

Some of the following plants are toxic to ingest, while others may cause a mild to severe rash or photosensitivity.

In the case of any suspected poisoning, immediately contact the Poison Control Hotline at 1-800-222-1222, which is open 24/7

Aconite, Monkshood (Aconitum spp.)
Angels trumpet, Jimsonweed, Downy Thorn apple, Devil’s trumpet (Datura spp.)
*Autumn crocus (Colchicum autumnale)
*Belladonna or Deadly nightshade (Atropa belladonna) – all parts
Bleeding heart (Dicentra mirabilis)
Blood root (Sanguinaria canadensis)
Brugmansia, Angel’s trumpet (Brugmansia spp.)
*Castor bean, Castor Oil Plant (Ricinus communis)
*Cherry trees (Prunus spp.) both wild and cultivated - twigs and foliage
Chinese or Japanese lantern (Physalis alkekengi)
Christmas rose (*Helleborus niger*)
Comfrey (*Symphytum officinale*)
Daffodil, Jonquil (*Narcissus spp.*) - bulbs are the most poisonous part
*Daphne* (*Daphne spp.*)
*Delphinium* (*Delphinium spp.*)
Diviner’s sage, Seer’s sage (*Salvia divinorum*)
*Dumbcane*, Dieffenbachia (*Dieffenbachia spp.*)
*Elderberry* (*Sambucus canadensis*)
English ivy (*Hedera helix*)
*Flowering tobacco, Nicotiana* (*Nicotiana spp.*)
Four o’clock (*Mirabilis jalapa*)
*Foxglove* (*Digitalis purpurea*)
Hyacinth (*Hyacinthus orientalis*)
*Jack in the Pulpit* (*Arisaema triphyllum*)
Japanese pieris, Andromeda (*Pieris japonica*)
Japanese skimmia (*Skimmia japonica*)
Jatropha, Purge nut, Curcas bean, peregrine, psychic nut (*Jatropha spp.*)
Jerusalem cherry (*Solanum pseudocapsicum*)
Kidney beans, red (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) – uncooked red kidney beans are toxic
Laburnum (*Laburnum anagyroides*)
*Lantana, Red sage, Yellow sage, or West Indian lantana* (*Lantana camara*)
*Larkspur* (*Delphinium spp.*)
*Lily-of-the-Valley* (*Convallaria majalis*)
Lobelia, Cardinal flower, Indian tobacco (*Lobelia cardinalis, Lobelia inflata, Lobelia spicata*)
*Mayapple, Mandrake* (*Podophyllum peltatum*)
Meadow saffron (*Colchicum spp.*)
Mountain laurel, Lambkill (*Kalmia latifolia* and *Kalmia spp.*)
*Nicotiana, Flowering tobacco* (*Nicotiana spp.*)
*Nightshade, Common; Black nightshade, Garden nightshade* (*Solanum nigrum*)
*Oleander* (*Nerium oleander*)
*Sweet pea, Tangier pea, Everlasting pea, Caley pea and Singletary pea* (*Lathyrus spp.*)
*Potato* (the green parts – vines, sprouts and eyes)
Pansy (*Viola tricolour*) - seeds
Pennyroyal (*Mentha pulegium*)
*Pokeweed* (*Phytolacca americana*)
*Poison hemlock* (*Conium maculatum*)
Poppy, Opium poppy (*Papaver spp.*)
*Queen Anne’s Lace (Daucus carota) is not toxic but because it so closely resembles Poison Hemlock (Conium maculatum), which is extremely toxic, it’s wise to exclude Queen Anne’s Lace from an elementary school garden. Rhododendron (Rhododendron spp.)

*Rhubarb (Rheum rhabonticum)

*Rosary pea, Jequirity bean, Precatory bean (Abrus precatorius) - highly toxic berries. Rue (Ruta graveolens) – skin sensitivity

Senecio, Groundsel, and Ragworts (Senecio spp.)

*Siberian squill (Scilla siberica syn. Scilla sibirica)

Star of Bethlehem (Ornithogalum umbellatum)

Stinging nettle (Urtica procera spp.) – extremely painful sting if touched

*Sweet pea (Lathyrus odoratus)

Tansy (Tanacetum vulgare)

Tomato (Solanum lycopersicum) – leaves and stems

*Variegated nightshade (Solanum dulcamara)

Viola, Pansy (Viola spp.) – seeds

Virginia creeper (Ampelopis brevipedunculata)

*Water hemlock (Cicuta brevifolia)

*White snakeroot (Ageratina altissima syn. Eupatorium rugosum)

Wild lupine (Lupinus perennis)

Wild onions, Wild leeks (Allium spp.)

Wild parsnip (Pastinaca sativa)

*Wisteria (Wisteria spp.)

*Yew (Taxus spp.)

*Especially toxic

For a more complete list of poisonous plants please check the gardening file in the school’s main office. If you have any questions about whether a plant is poisonous or not, please check with the members of the gardening advisory committee before planting.

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More Poisonous Plant Resources:

- University of Pennsylvania Poisonous Plants:  
  http://cal.vet.upenn.edu/projects/poison/index.html

- The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Poisonous Plants:  
  http://www.chop.edu/service/poison-control-center/resources-for-families/poisonous-plants.html

- Texas A & M Agri-Life Extension Service:  
  http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/lawn_garden/poison/poison.html

- Cornell University - Plants Poisonous to Livestock and Other Animals:  
  http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/plants/

- Rutgers Harmful Plants Gallery:  
  http://njaes.rutgers.edu/harmfulplants/