

Poisonous Plants in the Home Landscape

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Lists 72 plants. Tells which part of the plant is poisonous and whether it is through contact or ingestion that people are affected.



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MOST PEOPLE KNOW ENOUGH NOT TO TOUCH

or eat poison ivy. Most ranchers understand that death camas, water hemlock, white loco and some other range plants can cause serious loss of livestock when grazed. But how many Montana homeowners know that some common ornamentals can cause serious illness or even death if ingested? This discussion is not meant to frighten but to inform and will be particularly valuable in households where small children are allowed to roam freely over the property. Most toxic ornamentals are valuable plants that deserve a place in your landscape. They also deserve your respect. Understand what they can do if misused; then enjoy their beauty throughout the year.

The following plant list is not all-inclusive. New cultivars of some plants may be developed that are less,

or more, toxic than the parent species. Further, some people may develop an allergic reaction to plants that are harmless to most other people. For example, some people go into shock after eating peanuts. Further, the effects of poisonous plants range from slight skin irritation to illness or death. What will actually happen depends upon the inherent toxicity of the plant, the parts contacted (leaves, stems, fruit, bark), the time of year, stage of growth, the amount of material with which the person has come into contact and the age, weight and sensitivity of that person.

If someone has ingested a poisonous plant, keep him or her calm and warm. Call the Montana Poison Control System at 1-800-525-5042 and take a specimen of the ingested plant material with you to the hospital.



Daffodil



Elderberry



Bleeding heart

SOME POISONOUS PLANTS IN THE MONTANA HOME LANDSCAPE

Common Name (Botanical Name)	Toxic part	Contact (C) or Ingestion (I)
Anemone (<i>Anemone patens</i>)	All parts	C
Azaleas (<i>Rhododendron spp.</i>)	All parts	I
Bittersweet (<i>Celastrus scandens</i>)	All parts	I
Black locust (<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>)	Seeds, twigs	I
Bleeding Heart (<i>Dicentra spp.</i>)	All parts	I
Boxwood (<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>)	Leaves, twigs	I
Buckeye (<i>Aesculus spp.</i>)	Leaves, flowers, seeds	I
Buckthorn (<i>Rhamnus spp.</i>)	Berries, bark	I
Burning bush (see Euonymous)		
Buttercup (<i>Ranunculus spp.</i>)	All parts, esp. flowers	C
Castor beans (<i>Ricinus communis</i>)	Seeds, leaves	C
Cherry (<i>Prunus spp.</i>)	Seeds, bark, leaves	I
Cherry, ground (<i>Physalis spp.</i>)	All parts	I
Chinese lantern (see ground cherry)		
Christmas rose (<i>Helleborus niger</i>)	All parts	I
Clematis (<i>Clematis spp.</i>)	Leaves	C
Columbine (<i>Aquilegia spp.</i>)	Roots	I
Comfrey (<i>Symphytum spp.</i>)	Leaves, root	I
Crocus, autumn (<i>Colchicum autumnale</i>)	Bulbs, flowers	I
Daffodil (see Narcissus)		
Daphne (<i>Daphne spp.</i>)	All parts	C
Delphinium (see Larkspur)		

Common Name (Botanical Name)	Toxic part	Contact (C) or Ingestion (I)
Dumb cane (<i>Dieffenbachia seguine</i>)	All parts	I,C
Dutchman's breeches (<i>Dicentra spp.</i>)	All parts	I
Elderberry (<i>Sambucus spp.</i>)	All parts	I
English Ivy (<i>Hedera helix</i>)	Leaves, fruit	I
Euonymous (<i>Euonymous spp.</i>)	Seeds	I
Four O'Clocks (<i>Mirabilis jalapa</i>)	Roots, seeds	I
Foxglove (<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>)	Flowers, seeds, leaves	I
Ginkgo (<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>)	Fruit	I
Golden Chain (<i>Laburnum anagyroides</i>)	Bean-like fruit	I
Horse chestnut (<i>Aesculus spp.</i>)	Leaves, flowers, seeds	I
Horseradish (<i>Armoracia lapathifolia</i>)	Leaves	I
Horsetail (<i>Equisetum spp.</i>)	Whole plant	I
Hyacinths (<i>Hyacinthus spp.</i>)	Bulbs	I
Hydrangea (<i>Hydrangea spp.</i>)	Leaves, buds	I
Iris (<i>Iris spp.</i>)	Rhizomes	I
Jonquil (see Narcissus)		
Juniper (<i>Juniperus communis, J. virginiana</i>)	Fruit	C, I
Larkspur (<i>Delphinium spp.</i>)	Young plants, seeds	I
Laurel (<i>Kalmia spp.</i>)	All parts	I
Lily of the Valley (<i>Convallaria majalis</i>)	All parts	I
Locust, black (<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>)	Seeds, bark, sprouts	I

SOME POISONOUS PLANTS IN THE MONTANA HOME LANDSCAPE

Common Name (Botanical Name)	Toxic part	Contact (C) or Ingestion (I)
Lobelia (<i>Lobelia inflata</i>)	Leaves, seeds	I
Lupine (<i>Lupinus spp.</i>)	All parts	I
Maidenhair tree (see Gingko)		
Milkweed (<i>Asclepias spp.</i>)	All parts	C
Mock orange (<i>Philadelphus spp.</i>)	Fruit	I
Morning glory (<i>Ipomoea spp.</i>)	Seeds	I
Narcissus (<i>Narcissus spp.</i>)	Bulbs	I
Nightshade (<i>Solanum spp.</i>)	Fruit	I
Oak (<i>Quercus spp.</i>)	Acorns	I
Pasque flower (<i>Anemone spp.</i>)	Seeds	C
Peas, sweet (<i>Lathyrus spp.</i>)	Petals, seeds	I
Plums (<i>Prunus spp.</i>)	Seeds, bark, leaves	I
Poison Ivy (<i>Toxicodendron spp.</i>)	All parts	C
Potato (<i>Solanum tuberosum</i>)	Green portions, fruit	I
Privet (<i>Ligustrum spp.</i>)	Seeds	I
Rhododendron (<i>Rhododendron spp.</i>)	All parts	I
Rhubarb (<i>Rheum rhaponticum</i>)	Leaf blades	I
Scotch broom (<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>)	All parts	I
Snow-on-the-Mountain (<i>Euphorbia marginata</i>)	All parts	C
Spurges (<i>Euphorbia spp.</i>)	All parts	C
Tansy (<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>)	Leaves, flowers	I
Tobacco (<i>Nicotiana spp.</i>)	Leaves	I

Common Name (Botanical Name)	Toxic part	Contact (C) or Ingestion (I)
Tomato (<i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i>)	Leaves	I
Trumpet vine (<i>Campsis radicans</i>)	All parts	C
Virginia creeper (<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>)	Berries	I
Windflower (see Pasque flower)		
Wisteria (<i>Wisteria spp.</i>)	Seeds, pods	I
Wormwood (<i>Artemisia absinthium</i>)	All parts	I
Yew (<i>Taxus spp.</i>)	Fruit and foliage	I

Many range plants not commonly found around the home landscape are also toxic. See MSU Extension Bulletin 122, Range Plants of Montana, for more information on toxic range plants.



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