



# Possible Poisonous Plants

*. . .to pets, including fish when ingested or touched*

*For more information about the  
Colorado Water Garden Society  
or other aspects of pond keeping along the front-range go to:*

<http://www.colowatergardensociety.org>

or send an e-mail to:

[info@colowatergardensociety.org](mailto:info@colowatergardensociety.org)

Written by University of Pennsylvania 2005  
Revised & Edited by Dorothy Martinez 2013  
©Copyright 1999 - 2021, All Rights Reserved

[www.colowatergardensociety.org](http://www.colowatergardensociety.org)

Many of our ornamental plants in the garden may be poisonous to the touch (e.g., poison ivy, poison sumac), or orally toxic (e.g., poison hemlock, deadly amanita). Many of the poisonous plants, ironically, are of great value medicinally. Some plants are mildly toxic, while others can cause death. Pets are susceptible to many of the same poisonous plants that we are. If you have a cat or dog that may ingest any portion of the plants listed below, it is best to check with your veterinarian to get immediate answers to toxicity concerns. Items toxic to fish (highlighted in bold) should not be planted where fish can access any portion of the plant for ingestion. Care should be used when placing a pond near trees, as several have highly toxic leaves. All plants listed below are poisonous in various degrees to humans and pets.

AVOCADO (*Persea americana*)

**AZALEA (*Rhododendron* species)**

BANEBERRY (*Actaea rubra*)

BARILLA (*Halogeton glomeratus*)

**BLACK LOCUST (*Robinia* species)**

BLACK NIGHTSHADE (*Solanum nigrum americanum*)

BLACK WALNUT (*Juglans nigra*)

**BLUE CARDINAL FLOWER (*Lobelia siphilitica*)**

**BLUE COHOSH (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*)**

BLUE-GREEN ALGAE (*Cyanophyta* species)

BRAKCN FERN (*Pteridium aquilinum*)

BUCKEYE TREE (*Aesculus* species)

BUCKWHEAT (*Fagopyrum esculentum*)

**BUTTERCUP (*Ranunculus* species)**

**CALADIUM (*Caladium xaiitliosoma*)**  
**CARDINAL FLOWER (*Lobelia cardinalis*)**  
**CASTORBEAN (*Ricinus communis*)**  
CHINABERRY TREE (*Melia azedarach*)  
**CHOKECHERRY/CHERRY (*Prunus species*)**  
**CLIMBING NIGHTSHADE (*Solanum dulcamara*)**  
**CLOVER (*Trifolium species*)**  
COCKLEBUR (*Xanthium species*)  
COMMON NIGHTSHADE (*Solanum nigrum americanum*)  
COTTON (*Gossypium species*)  
CYCAD/SAGO PALM (*Cycas revoluta*)  
DEADLY NIGHTSHADE (*Atropa belladonna*)  
DOGBANE/INDIAN HEMP (*Apocynum species*)  
DUMB CANE (*Dieffenbachia seguine* or *picta*)  
DUTCHMAN'S BREECHES (*Dicentra cucullaria*)  
ERGOT (*Claviceps species*)  
EUROPEAN BITTERSWEET (*Solanum dulcamara*)  
FLY POISON (*Amianthium muscaetoxicum*)  
FOXGLOVE (*Digitalis purpurea*)  
GROUND IVY (*Glechoma hederacea*)  
GROUNDSEL (*Senecio species*)  
HALOGETON (*Halogeton glomeratus*)  
HOARY ALYSSUM (*Berteroa incana*)  
**HORSE CHESTNUT (*Aesculus species*)**  
HORSENETTLE (*Solanum carolinense*)  
HOUND'S TONGUE (*Cynoglossum officinale*)  
**IRIS (*Iris terrestrial species – bulb*)**  
**JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT (*Arisaema species*)**  
JAPANESE PIERIS (*Pieris japonica*)  
**JIMSONWEED (*Datura species*)**  
LAMB'S QUARTERS (*Chenopodium album*)  
LARKSPUR (*Delphinium species*)  
LILY (*Lilium species*)  
**LILY-OF-THE-VALLEY (*Convallaria majalis*)**  
LOCOWEED (*Astragalus & Oxytropis species*)  
LUPINE (*Lupinus species*)  
**MARSH MARIGOLD (*Caltha palustris*)**  
MARIJUANA (*Cannabis sativa*)  
MAYAPPLE (*Podophyllum peltatum*)  
**MILKWEED (*Asclepias species*)**  
MONKSHOOD (*Aconitum species*)  
MOUNTAIN LAUREL (*Kalmia species*)  
OAKS (*Quercus species*)  
OLEANDER (*Nerium oleander*)  
ONION (*Allium cepa*)  
**PALE SPIKE LOBELIA (*Lobelia spicata*)**  
PERILLA MINT (*Perilla frutescens*)  
**PHILODENDRON (*Philodendron species*)**  
**PIGWEEED (*Amaranthus species*)**  
**POISON HEMLOCK (*Conium maculatum*)**  
POISON IVY (*Toxicodendron radicans*)  
POKEWEED (*Phytolacca americana*)  
**PONDEROSA PINE (*Pinus ponderosa*)**  
**POTATO (*Solanum tuberosum*) – foliage**  
PRECATORY BEAN (*Abrus precatorius*)  
**RED MAPLE (*Acer rubrum*)**

RHODODENDRON (*Rhododendron maximum*)  
**RHUBARB (*Rheum raphonticum*) – foliage**  
ROSARY PEA (*Abrus precatorius*)  
ST. JOHN'S WART (*Hypericum perforatum*)  
SENSITIVE FERN (*Onoclea sensibilis*)  
SKUNK CABBAGE (*Symplocarpus foetidus*)  
**SNEEZEWEED (*Helenium autumnale*)**  
SNOW-ON-THE-MOUNTAIN (*Euphorbia* species)  
SORGHUM (*Sorghum* species)  
SPURGE (*Euphorbia* species)  
STAR-OF-BETHEHEM (*Ornithogalum umbellatum*)  
SWEETCLOVER (*Melilotus* species)  
**SWEET PEA (*Lathyrus* species)**  
TANSY RAGWORT (*Senecio* species)  
THORN APPLE (*Datura* species)  
**TOBACCO (*Nicotiana tabacum*)**  
TOMATO (*Lycopersicon esculentum*) – foliage  
WATERHEMLOCK (*Cicuta* species)  
    \**Maculata* (East)  
    \**Douglasii* (West)  
WESTERN FALSE HELLEBORE (*Veratrum californicum* or *viride*)  
**WHITE SNAKE ROOT (*Eupatorium rugosum*)**  
**WILD BLEEDING HEART (*Dicentra* species)**  
WISTERIA (*Wisteria* species)  
YELLOW STAR THISTLE (*Centaurea solstitialis*)  
YEW (*Taxus* species)

Items delineated in bold and underlined are commonly used as marginal pond plants. Fish don't normally eat plants located on the margins of the pond.

More information is available at the  
University of Pennsylvania  
<http://cal.vet.upenn.edu/projects/poison/common.htm>  
List Created by: Brett Begley (2000) and Janet Triplett (1977)

Colorado Water Garden Society  
<http://www.colowatergardensociety.org>  
©Copyright 1999 - 2021, All Rights Reserved