



Home

- our products
- skin problems
- about dermik
- career exchange
- conventions
- education
- links
- contact us

search



Learn More About Poison Ivy, Oak and Sumac

- How are rashes from plants treated?
- Poison Ivy
- Poison Oak
- Poison Sumac
- Who gets plant rashes?
- What are the symptoms of plant rashes?
- How can I prevent plant rashes?



- Acne
- Nail Fungus
- Psoriasis & Dermatitis
- Actinic Keratosis
- Plant Rashes
- Insect Bites
- Rosacea

PSORCON[®]e
 (diflorasone diacetate cream) 0.05%
 (diflorasone diacetate ointment) 0.05%

How are rashes from plants treated?

Mild rashes may be treated with non-prescription preparations, but hydrocortisone creams are usually ineffective. If the reaction is severe, your doctor may prescribe a corticosteroid drug.

[Click here](#) for information about Dermik products which can be used to treat plant rashes.

Poison ivy, oak, and sumac are among the most common skin rashes seen in a physician's office. Allergic reactions from these plants will affect millions of Americans every year. These rashes are most commonly caused by contact with the plant's colorless or yellowish oil, called urushiol (u-roo-she-ol). The plant oil is released when the plant stem or leaves are cut or crushed. The plant oil is invisible and sticky and may be carried on garden tools, on pet's fur, or in the smoke of a burning plant.

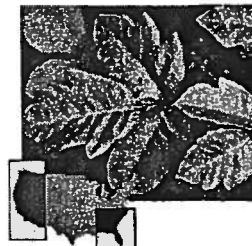
Poison Ivy

A climbing vine with three serrated-edge, pointed leaves grows in the East, Midwest and South. In the northern and western states, poison ivy grows as a non-climbing shrub.



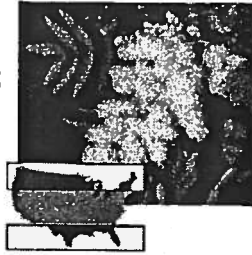
Poison Oak

Poison oak also has three leaves. It grows in the sandy soil of the Southeast as a small shrub. In the western United States poison oak is a very large plant which grows as a standing shrub or climbing vine.



Poison Sumac

A shrub or bush with two rows of 7 - 13 leaflets; most common in the peat bogs of the Northern United States and in swampy Southern regions of the country.



Who is affected?

Researchers have found that 85% of the population will develop an allergic reaction if exposed to poison ivy. Sensitivity seems to develop over several exposures, usually during childhood, and tends to decrease as individuals reach their thirties. About 10% of the population will have severe reactions, and an equal number of people will not be sensitive at all.

What are the symptoms of plant rashes?

The rash can affect any part of the body but the commonly affected areas are the hands, forearms and face. Once the plant oil touches the skin, it begins to penetrate in a matter of minutes. The rash appears as a line within 12-48 hours after exposure to the plant oil. Redness and swelling are followed by blisters and severe itching; within a few days the blisters become crusted and scaly. The rash will heal in about ten days.

How can I prevent plant rashes?

The most common way to get a rash from a poisonous plant is to come in contact with the plant oil. Once you have the rash it cannot be spread to other parts of your body or to another person by touching the blisters or the fluid. The rash is spread by the plant oil on the hands, for example, wiping the forehead with the hand.

Learn to recognize and avoid the plant. If you find the plant growing in your yard, use gloves to pull it up by the roots, and discard the plant carefully, then discard or wash the gloves. When walking through wooded areas, wear long pants and long sleeves.

Brushing up against the plant's leaves seldom results in breaking out in a rash because the plant's oil is not released unless the stem or leaf surface is broken. However, if you are exposed to the plant oil, wash the affected area with cold water as soon as possible. Carefully remove all exposed clothing and wash it. Wash off all camping and sporting gear as well, if there is a chance that it has been contaminated.

[Our Products](#) · [Skin Problems](#) · [About Dermik](#) · [Career Exchange](#) · [Conventions](#) · [Education](#) · [Links](#) · [Contact](#) · [Site Map](#)

© 2002 Dermik Laboratories.
[Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#)

Tracker Trail

Primitive Survival Skills, Tracking, Nature, Wilderness Mind

Nature - Hazards

Poison Sumac

This small tree is very poisonous to touch. Some say that it is much more poisonous than Poison Ivy. For more information on the effects of Poison Sumac, see the [Poison Ivy - Identification](#) page (the effects are the same as Poison Ivy).

Identification:

A shrub or small tree, 6-20 feet tall.

Leaves: Compound, with 7-13 pointed, smooth-edged leaflets. The leaflets often angle slightly upwards from the leaf stem. Buds hairless.

Stems and Twigs: Hairless. Bark smooth, dark, speckled with dark spots.

Berries: Similar to Poison Ivy: spreading or drooping clusters of small white hard berries.

Habitat: Grows in wet areas (wet ground or in standing water), in marshes and partly-wooded swamps.

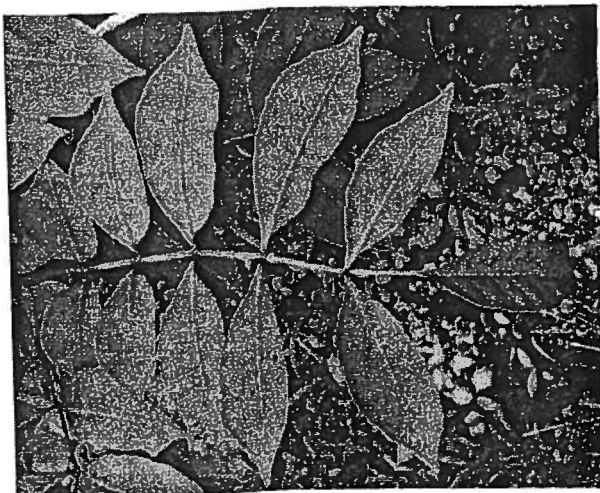
Range: SE Minnesota, S. Ontario, SW Quebec, SW Maine, south to Texas and Florida.

For **cures**, see the [Poison Ivy - Cures](#) page.

A view from above of a smaller Poison Sumac shrub.



Close-up view of a compound leaf.



For comparison, here is a photo of **Staghorn Sumac**.

Note the toothed (not smooth) leaflets.

Staghorn Sumac is very common, and is *not* poisonous to touch. It grows in dry soils, so you will never find Staghorn Sumac growing side by side with Poison Sumac.



[Back to Poison Ivy Index Page](#)

Tracker Trail

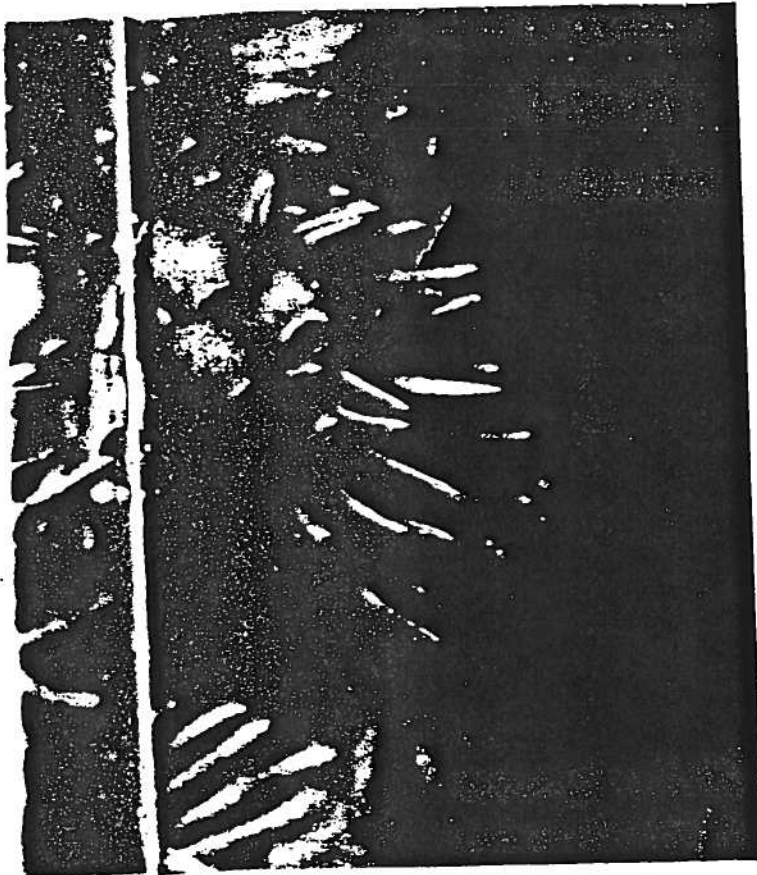
The material on this page is copyright © by the original authors/artists. This website is copyright © by Walter Muma

The Caretaker

Wildwood Trackers

POISONOUS PLANTS

Of Eastern
North
America



By
Randy G. Westbrook
James W. Preacher

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA PRESS

Contents

(text species grouped by families)

xiii	PREFACE
xv	FOREWORD
xvii	INTRODUCTION
xviii	ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
xix	PLANT TOXINS
1	PICTORIAL GLOSSARY

CYCADACEAE

3 *Cycas circinalis* (false sago palm)

5 *Zamia* spp. (coontie)

GINKGOACEAE

6 *Ginkgo biloba*

CUPRESSACEAE

7 *Juniperus* spp. (red cedar)

TAXACEAE

8 *Taxus* spp. (yew)

PODOCARPACEAE

9 *Podocarpus macrophylla* (Japanese yew)

10 *Caryota mitis* (fishtail palm)

ARACEAE

11 *Arisaema triphyllum* (jack-in-the-pulpit)

12 *Caladium* spp.

13 *Dieffenbachia* spp. (dumbcane)

14 *Epipremum aureum* (hunter's robe)

15 *Monstera deliciosa* (split-leaf philodendron)

16 *Orontium aquaticum* (golden club)

17 *Philodendron* spp.

18 *Pistia stratiotes* (water lettuce)

19 *Symplocarpus foetidus* (skunk cabbage)

COMMELINACEAE

20 *Rhoeo spathacea* (oyster plant)

21 *Tradescantia pallida* (purple queen)

LILIACEAE

22 *Asparagus officinalis*

23 *Colchium autumnale* (autumn crocus)

25 *Convallaria majalis* (lily-of-the-valley)

26 *Gloriosa superba* (glory lily)

28 *Hyacinthus orientalis* (hyacinth)

29 *Ornithogalum umbellatum* (star-of-Bethlehem)

30 *Veratrum viride* (false hellebore)

32 *Zigadenus densus* (black snakeroot)

- AMARYLLIDACEAE
 33 *Agave spp.* (century plant)
 34 *Amaryllis spp.*
 35 *Crinum spp.* (milk & wine lily)
 36 *Narcissus spp.* (jonquil, daffodil)
- IRIDACEAE
 37 *Iris spp.*
- ORCHIDACEAE
 38 *Cypripedium spp.* (lady's slipper orchid)
- MORACEAE
 39 *Ficus carica* (fig)
 40 *Morus rubra* (mulberry)
- URTICACEAE
 41 *Urtica dioica* (stinging nettle)
- CANNABACEAE
 42 *Cannabis sativa* (marijuana)
 43 *Humulus lupulus* (hops)
- LORANTHACEAE
 44 *Phoradendron serotinum* (mistletoe)
- POLYGONACEAE
 45 *Fagopyrum sagittatum* (buckwheat)
 46 *Rheum rhaponticum* (rhubarb)
 47 *Rumex spp.* (sorrel)
- CHENOPODIACEAE
 48 *Chenopodium ambrosioides* (Mexican tea)
- NYCTAGINACEAE
 49 *Mirabilis jalapa* (four o'clock)
- PHYTOLACCACEAE
 50 *Phytolacca americana* (pokeberry)
- CARYOPHYLLACEAE
 52 *Agrostemma githago* (corn cockle)
 53 *Saponaria officinalis* (bouncing bet)
- RANUNCULACEAE
 54 *Aconitum spp.* (monkshood)
 55 *Actea spp.* (baneberry)
 56 *Anemone spp.* (wind flower)
 57 *Caltha palustris* (marsh marigold, cowslip)
 58 *Clematis spp.* (virgin's bower)
 59 *Delphinium spp.* (larkspur)
 60 *Helleborus niger* (christmas rose)
 61 *Hydrastis canadensis* (golden seal)
 62 *Ranunculus spp.* (buttercup)
- ANNONACEAE
 63 *Asimina triloba* (pawpaw)
- BERBERIDACEAE
 64 *Caulophyllum thalictroides* (blue cohosh)
 65 *Podophyllum peltatum* (mayapple)

MENISPERMACEAE

- 67 *Menispermum canadense* (moonseed)

PAPAVERACEAE

- 68 *Argemone mexicana* (Mexican prickly poppy)
 69 *Chelidonium majus* (celandine)
 70 *Papaver somniferum* (poppy)
 71 *Sanguinaria canadensis* (bloodroot)

FUMARIACEAE

- 72 *Dicentra* spp. (dutchman's breeches)

SAXIFRAGACEAE

- 73 *Hydrangea* spp.

ROSACEAE

- 74 *Malus sylvestris* (apple)
 75 *Prunus* spp. (cherry)

LEGUMINOSEAE

- 77 *Abrus precatorius* (rosary pea)
 78 *Cassia occidentalis* (coffee senna)
 79 *Crotolaria* spp. (rattlebox)
 80 *Gymnocladus dioica* (Kentucky coffee tree)
 81 *Laburnum anagyroides* (golden chain)
 82 *Lathyrus* spp. (chick pea)
 84 *Lupinus* spp. (lupine)
 85 *Robinia pseudoacacia* (black locust)
 86 *Sesbania punicea* (purple sesbania)
 87 *Tephrosia virginiana* (goat's rue)
 88 *Vicia faba* (fava bean)
 90 *Wisteria* spp.

LINACEAE

- 91 *Linum usitatissimum* (flax)

RUTACEAE

- 92 *Citrus aurantifolia* (lime)
 93 *Poncirus trifoliata* (trifoliolate orange)
 94 *Ruta graveolens* (rue)

MELIACEAE

- 95 *Melia azedarach* (chinaberry)

EUPHORBIACEAE

- 96 *Aleurites fordii* (tung oil tree)
 97 *Cnidoscolus stimulosus* (spurge nettle)
 98 *Croton capitatus* (woolly croton)
 99 *Euphorbia* spp. (spurge)
 101 *Hippomane mancinella* (manchineel)
 102 *Hura crepitans* (sandbox tree)
 103 *Jatropha curcas* (physic nut)
 104 *Ricinus communis* (castor bean)
 106 *Sapium sebiferum* (popcorn tree)

BUXACEAE

- 107 *Buxus sempervirens* (boxwood)

Contents

ANACARDIACEAE

- 108 *Mangifera indica* (mango)
- 109 *Metopium toxiferum* (poisonwood)
- 110 *Schinus terebinthifolius* (Brazilian pepper)
- 111 *Toxicodendron* spp. (poison ivy, oak, sumac)

AQUIFOLIACEAE

- 113 *Ilex* spp. (holly)

CELASTRACEAE

- 114 *Euonymus atropurpureus* (strawberry bush)

HIPPOCASTANACEAE

- 115 *Aesculus* spp. (buckeye)

SAPINADCEAE

- 117 *Blighia sapida* (akee)

RHAMNACEAE

- 118 *Rhamnus* spp. (buckthorn)

VITACEAE

- 120 *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* (Virginia creeper)

HYPERICACEAE

- 121 *Calophyllum inophyllum* (mastwood)

THYMELACEAE

- 122 *Dirca palustris* (wicopy, leatherwood)

MYRTACEAE

- 123 *Eucalyptus* spp.
- 124 *Melaleuca quinquenervia* (bottlebrush tree)

ARALIACEAE

- 125 *Aralia spinosa* (hercules club)
- 126 *Hedera helix* (English ivy)
- 127 *Polyscias* spp. (aralia)

APIACEAE

- 128 *Cicuta maculata* (water hemlock)
- 130 *Conium maculatum* (poison hemlock)
- 131 *-Daucus carota* (Queen Anne's lace)
- 132 *Pastinaca sativa* (wild parsnip)

ERICACEAE

- 133 *Kalmia latifolia* (mountain laurel)
- 134 *Rhododendron* spp. (rhododendron, azalea)

PRIMULACEAE

- 135 *Primula obconica* (primrose)

OLEACEAE

- 136 *Ligustrum vulgare* (privet)

LOGANIACEAE

- 137 *Gelsemium sempervirens* (Carolina jessamine)
- 139 *Spigelia marilandica* (Indian pink)

APOCYNACEAE

- 140 *Allamanda Cathartica* (yellow allamanda)
- 141 *Catharanthus roseus* (periwinkle)
- 142 *Nerium oleander* (oleander)

ASCLEPIADACEAE

- 143 *Asclepias* spp. (milkweed)
144 *Cryptostegia grandiflora* (palay rubbervine)

CONVULVULACEAE

- 145 *Ipomoea tricolor* (morning glory)

VERBENACEAE

- 146 *Lantana camara*

SOLANACEAE

- 148 *Atropa belladonna* (belladonna)
150 *Capsicum frutescens* (chili pepper)
151 *Cestrum* spp.
152 *Datura stramonium* (jimsonweed)
154 *Hyoscyamus niger* (henbane)
155 *Lycopersicon esculentum* (tomato)
156 *Nicotiana tabacum* L. (tobacco)
158 *Solandra* spp. (trumpet flower)
159 *Solanum* spp. (nightshade)

SCROPHULARIACEAE

- 161 *Digitalis purpurea* (foxglove)

BIGNONIACEAE

- 162 *Campsis radicans* (trumpet creeper)

CAPRIFOLIACEAE

- 163 *Lonicera japonica* (Japanese honeysuckle)
164 *Sambucus* spp. (elderberry)

CUCURBITACEAE

- 165 *Momordica charantia* (balsam pear)

LOBELIACEAE

- 166 *Lobelia* spp. (cardinal flower)

ASTERACEAE

- 167 *Achillea millefolium* (milfoil, yarrow)
168 *Ageratina altissima* (white snakeroot)
169 *Helenium* spp. (sneezeweed)
170 *Senecio* spp.
172 *Tanacetum vulgare* (tansy)

173 MISCELLANEOUS

183 READY REFERENCE LIST

208 GLOSSARY

213 LITERATURE CITED

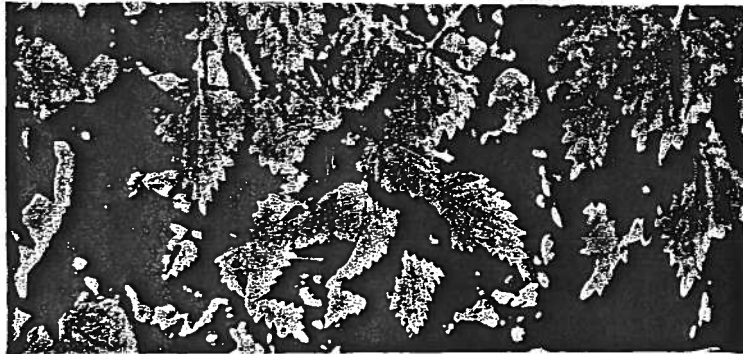
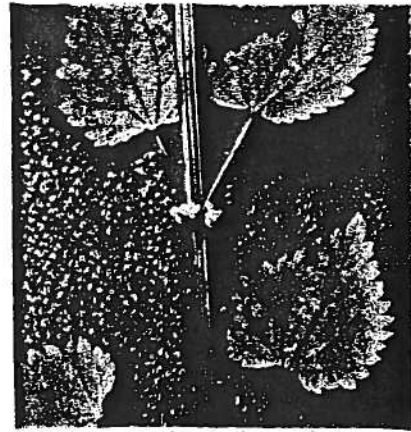
221 GENERAL REFERENCES

222 INDEX OF COMMON NAMES

Stinging Nettle

Urtica dioica L.

Urticaceae



DESCRIPTION: Erect perennial herb; stems 4-angled, with stinging hairs; wood nettle (*Laportea*) is similar in appearance.

LEAVES: Opposite (*Laportea* has alternate), toothed.

FLOWERS: Small, greenish, in axillary panicles; staminate with 4 perianth parts, 4 stamens; pistillate with 4 perianth parts, ovary 1-celled; May-September.

FRUIT: Achenes.

OCCURRENCE: Waste areas, along road; North Carolina and north; cultivated.

TOXICITY: Stinging hairs on the leaves and stems contain irritant chemicals.

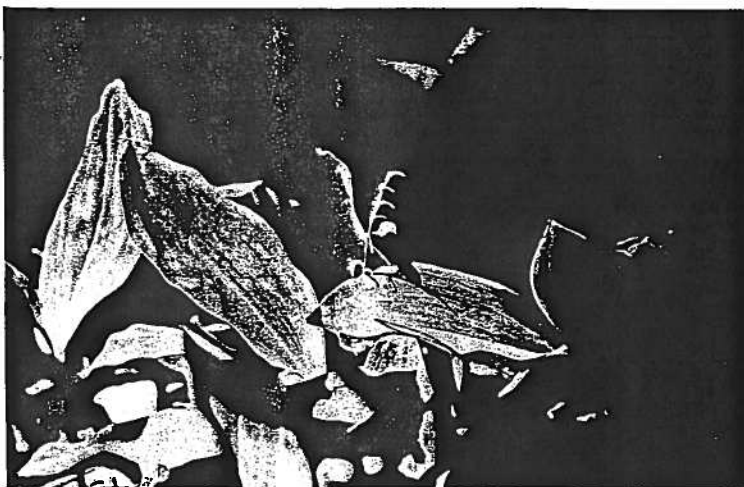
SYMPTOMS: Severe burning of the skin that persists usually less than 1 hour (72, 106, 142, 165).

NOTES: The stinging hairs have a bladder-like base filled with the irritant chemical, a slender capillary tube and a sharp tip that easily penetrates the skin. When the plant is touched, the hair bends, constricting the base and the chemical is forced into the skin through the capillary tube. Eaten raw, the plant causes gastrointestinal irritation but is an excellent potherb (142) high in vitamins A and C (5). The fresh juice of nettle has been used to promote milk flow in nursing mothers, for excessive menstrual flow, diarrhea and hemorrhoids (113). *Laportea* and *Cnidocolus* (spurge nettle) have similar hairs as well.

Lily-of-the-Valley

Convallaria majalis L.

Liliaceae



DESCRIPTION: Fragrant, perennial herb with creeping rootstock.

LEAVES: Simple, sheathing, ovate, to 25 cm long.

FLOWERS: On leafless stalks, in 1-sided racemes, white, bell-shaped, drooping.

FRUIT: Red-orange berry, 1-3 seeded.

OCCURRENCE: Native to Britain and Europe; cultivated in shady gardens throughout the U.S.; sometimes escaping to roadsides, thickets and open woods.

TOXICITY: All parts contain the cardiac glycosides convallarin, convallamarin and convallatoxin (49, 72, 93, 101); the aglycone of convallatoxin is convallatoxigenin (101).

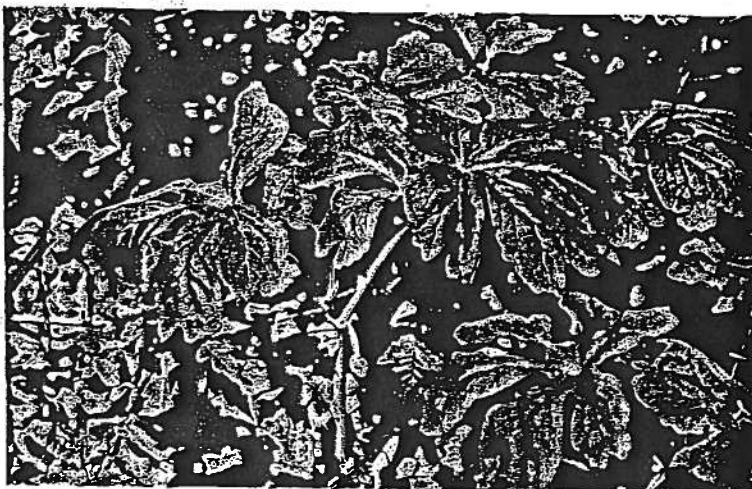
SYMPTOMS: Burning of the mouth and throat, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, purging, dilated pupils, decreased pulse rate, irregular heart beat, cold clammy skin, collapse, coma, circulatory failure and death (4, 49, 134).

NOTES: One medieval legend associates this plant with St. Leonard, a favorite of King Clovis of France. In doing battle with the devil in the form of a dragon to decide who should live in and rule the forest, Leonard's blood produced this flower wherever it was spilled. The dragon's blood produced poisonous weeds wherever it touched (116). The plant has been used since ancient Greece for heart disease, dropsy and as a purgative (93). Children are attracted to the bright flowers and berries, and have been killed drinking water from a vase containing the flowers (4, 90). The plant has also been used as an African arrow poison (171).

Mayapple

Podophyllum peltatum L.

Berberidaceae



DESCRIPTION: Glabrous, perennial herb with simple stems; rootstock stout.

LEAVES: Two that are large, rounded, palmately divided with 5-9 parts.

FLOWERS: Solitary, nodding, white; sepals 6; petals 6-9; stamens 12-18; stigma sessile; April-early June.

FRUIT: Large, fleshy, red or yellow berry.

OCCURRENCE: Open fields, pastures, woods; throughout North America, often forming dense colonies; sometimes cultivated.

TOXICITY: The resin podophyllin in all parts, but mostly the rhizomes, contains lignans such as podophyllotoxin, an anti-mitosis agent (97, 109) and others. If eaten by the mother during pregnancy, the effects on mitosis could cause genetic defects in the human fetus (72).

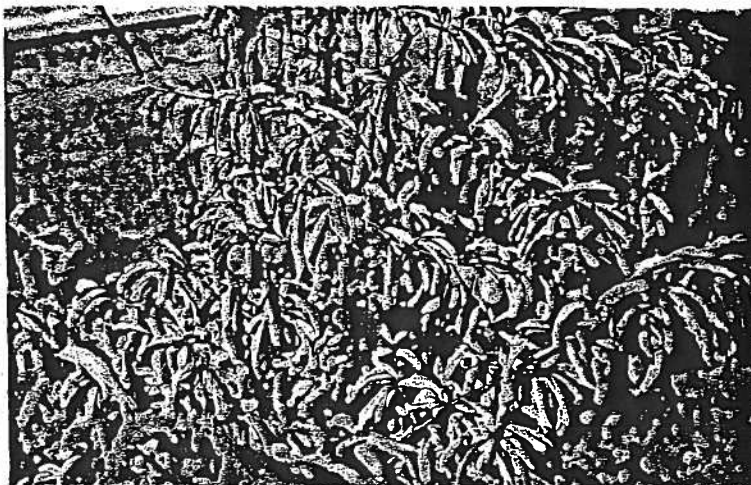
SYMPTOMS: Small amounts of the unripe fruit cause gastroenteritis, diarrhea, vomiting, and abdominal pain (101, 109, 142). Larger amounts will cause dizziness, headache, fever, labored breathing, rapid pulse, low blood pressure, coma and death (142); the roots may cause dermatitis (72, 129, 142, 165).

NOTES: Poisoning does not often occur for the ripe fruit is safe in small amounts. It has even been made into jelly (129). Children, however have been poisoned by eating too many green fruits (109). Toxicity is usually seen in misuse of medical preparations for constipation (49, 109). The roots have been used for fever, cough, liver problems, jaundice and syphilis (102). Workers handling the powdered rhizome commercially sometimes experience conjunctivitis keratitis and ulcerative skin lesions (101). The resin has also been used to treat warts. The following case illustrates the effects when given internally. On January 19, 1964,

Cherry

Prunus spp.

Rosaceae



DESCRIPTION: Shrubs or trees.

LEAVES: Alternate, simple, usually deciduous, generally toothed, sometimes with glands on leaf stalks.

FLOWERS: Solitary or in few-flowered clusters, white or pink, perfect; calyx 5-lobed, bell-tubular shaped; petals 5; stamens 15–30; pistil 1.

FRUIT: Drupes, round to oval-shaped, pulp dry or juicy, surrounding a hard pit; the seed is inside the pit.

OCCURRENCE: Native and introduced; some cultivated.

TOXICITY: Seeds contain the cyanogenic glycoside amygdalin and leaves contain prunasin which yield HCN upon hydrolysis (145). The unbroken seeds are harmless (106) and toxicity in leaves is brought on by wilting. The lethal dose is about 50 mg in adults and 20 mg in children (72).

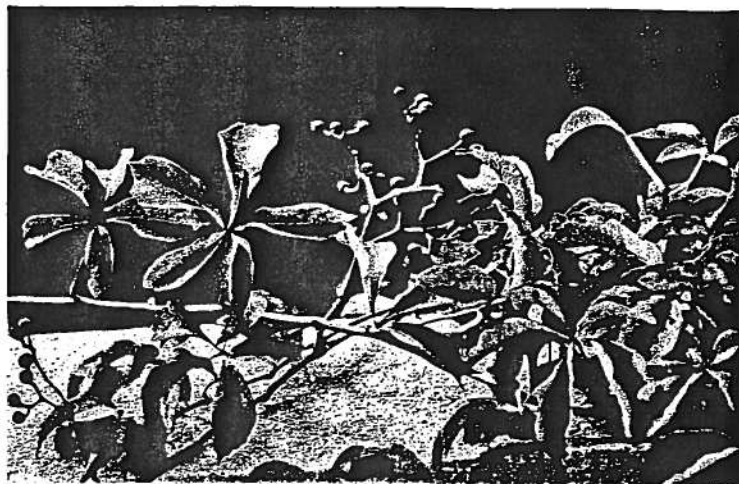
SYMPTOMS: Small amounts cause gasping, weak and irregular respiration, weakness, excitement, depression, staggering, pupil dilation, twitching, spasms, convulsions, coma, acetone odor on the breath, respiratory failure and death (10, 142); lethal amounts may cause spasms, respiratory failure and death within 1 hour (142).

NOTES: Children have been poisoned eating the seeds, drinking tea from the leaves and chewing the twigs of black cherry (*P. serotina* Ehr.) (109). A tea from the bark was used by Indians and in Appalachia to treat coughs and colds (102, 109). Some parts of related species should also be considered toxic including cherry laurel, plum, bitter almond, peach and apricot (109). The controversial, reputedly cancer-curing drug *laetrile* is taken from the seeds of apricots, peaches, and related fruits

Virginia Creeper

Parthenocissus quinquefolia (L.) Planchon

Vitaceae



DESCRIPTION: High climbing vine; pith white; tendrils branched with adhesive disks.

LEAVES: Alternate, palmately divided, leaflets 5, elliptical, toothed.

FLOWERS: In panicle-like cymes; petals 5, yellowish-green; stamens 5; May-August.

FRUIT: Drupes with 1-3 seeds.

OCCURRENCE: Common in woods, disturbed areas and margins; throughout the East; sometimes grown on walls and fences.

TOXICITY: Oxalic acid (106); the berries are usually the cause of poisoning, but leaves may be toxic as well (49, 72, 106, 142).

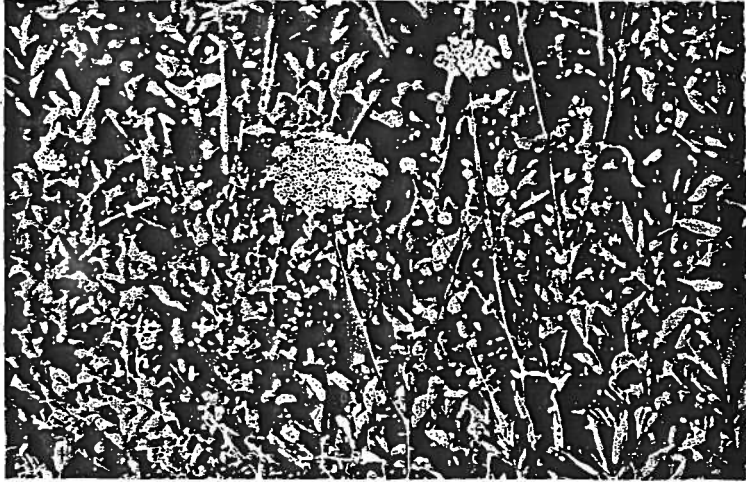
SYMPTOMS: After about 24 hours; nausea, abdominal pain, bloody vomiting and diarrhea, dilated pupils, headache, sweating, weak pulse, drowsiness, electrolyte imbalance, cramps and facial muscle twitching, kidney damage and collapse; acetone is found in the urine and on the patient's breath (49, 142).

NOTES: In a few cases, the berries are suspected as the cause of lethal poisoning in children (101, 109).

**Wild Carrot,
Queen Anne's Lace**

Daucus carota L.

Apiaceae



DESCRIPTION: Erect, biennial herb; stems bristly.

LEAVES: Alternate or basal, pinnately divided, segments narrow, hairy.

FLOWERS: White, in flat-topped umbels, subtended by long, finely divided bracts; petals unequal; May–September.

FRUIT: Ribbed, 2-carpellate, with bristly hairs.

OCCURRENCE: Introduced; common in open areas such as meadows and pastures.

TOXICITY: Leaves contain furocoumarins (106, 142).

SYMPTOMS: Some people get allergic contact dermatitis from the leaves especially when wet (129); later exposure to the sun may cause mild photodermatitis (106, 109).

NOTES: Domesticated carrots are vegetatively similar, but have a thick root that is formed during the second year of growth (103). Preparations from the seeds were once used for urinary and menstrual problems (159), and the boiled, mashed roots were applied as a poultice for bruises and cuts (102). The colloquial name was given to honor Queen Anne, wife of James I of England (159).

Milkweed

Asclepias spp.

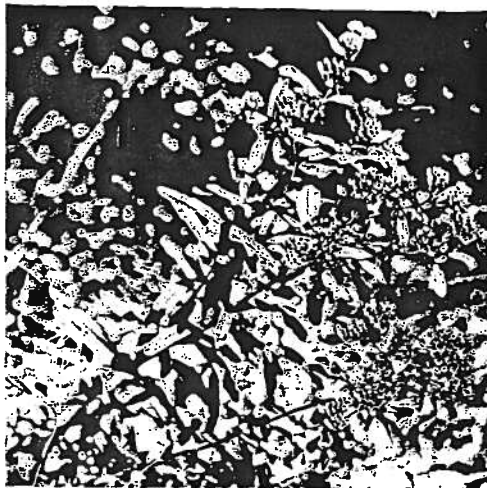
Asclepiadaceae



Asclepias humistrata



Asclepias syriaca



Asclepias tuberosa

DESCRIPTION: Erect, perennial herbs with milky juice.

LEAVES: Opposite or whorled, rarely alternate, simple.

FLOWERS: In terminal or axillary umbels; sepals 5, reflexed, persisting; petals 5, white, yellow, greenish, red or purplish; stamens 5, filaments hooded and usually with incurved horns.

FRUIT: Inflated follicles with numerous seeds, each bearing a tuft of long silky hairs.

OCCURRENCE: Mostly native; throughout the East in woods, borders, old fields; some cultivated.

TOXICITY: Several cardiac glycosides of the 5- α series including uzari-genin and syriogenin (158) that are toxic to man (109).

SYMPTOMS: Some species have caused vomiting, stupor and weakness (142); the sap may cause dermatitis (109).

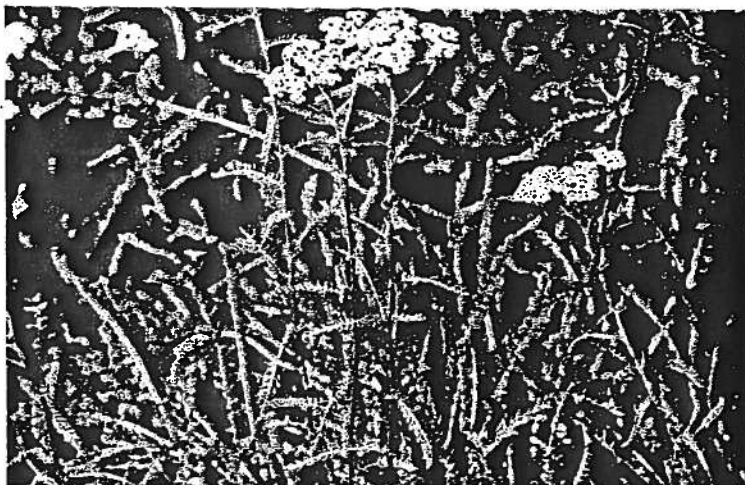
NOTES: The genus may be dangerous to children if eaten in quantity (72).

The root of butterfly milkweed (*A. tuberosa* L.) is used medicinally, but overdoses are toxic (142). Nineteenth-century physicians used a tea from the powdered root as a mild sedative and for asthma (159). The root has also been used as a purgative, diuretic and emetic (113). Indians used milkweed for asthma, dropsy and stomach ailments. The juice was used externally for warts (159).

Milfoil, Yarrow

Achillea millefolium L.

Asteraceae



DESCRIPTION: Erect, perennial herb with rhizomes; 3–12 dm tall.

LEAVES: Alternate, 2–3x pinnately divided, with many basal rosettes.

FLOWERS: Composite heads in terminal clusters; each head subtended by several series of involucre bracts; ray flowers pistillate, white or pink; disc flowers perfect, white, rarely pink; pappus none; late April–September.

FRUIT: Achenes.

OCCURRENCE: Meadows, pastures, waste places; throughout the U.S.; sometimes cultivated. ♪

TOXICITY: Unidentified.

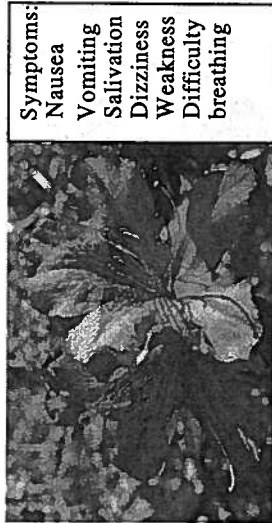
SYMPTOMS: Allergic contact dermatitis in some people (106, 108); it may also cause percutaneous photosensitization (171).

NOTES: The plant was named in honor of Achilles, who in legend used it in healing his soldiers wounds (159). Medically, it has been used for appetite loss, stomach, liver and gallbladder ailments and in a wash for skin disorders such as sores and chapped hands (113). Blackfoot Indians used *Achillea* leaves and flowers in a decoction as an eyewash; Winnebago Indians steeped the plant and poured the liquid into aching ears (109). The root was used by Indians as a local anesthetic in cleaning wounds and for toothache (5). If eaten by cows, the plant also causes a bad flavor in milk (129).

Plants Poisonous to

Humans

Azalea



Symptoms:
 Nausea
 Vomiting
 Salivation
 Dizziness
 Weakness
 Difficulty breathing

Poisonous Part: All

Bird of Paradise



Symptoms:
 Nausea
 Vomiting
 Diarrhea
 Dizziness
 Drowsiness

Poisonous Part: Capsule & Seeds

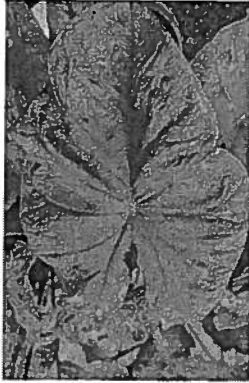
Calla Lilly



Symptoms:
 Vomiting
 Irritation
 Swelling

Poisonous Part: Leaves & Rhizome

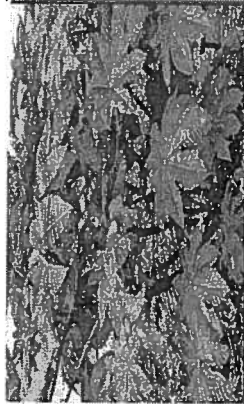
Caladium



Symptoms:
 Irritant to mouth, throat, stomach & intestines

Poisonous Part: All

Castor Bean



Symptoms:
 Nausea
 Vomiting
 Diarrhea
 Irritation
 Thirst
 Seizures
 Vision

Poisonous Part: Leaves & seeds

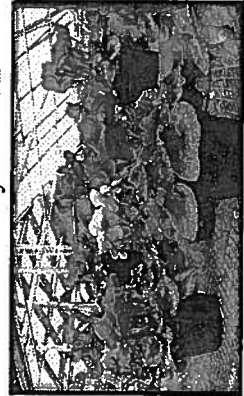
Crown of Thorns



Symptoms:
 Vomiting
 Irritation

Poisonous Part: Sap

Cyclamen



Symptoms:
 Cramps
 Vomiting
 Diarrhea

Poisonous Part: Bulb

Donkeytail



Symptoms:
 Vomiting
 Diarrhea
 Weakness
 Difficult Breathing

Poisonous Part: All

Dumbcane



Symptoms:
 Irritation
 Swelling
 Difficult Breathing

Poisonous Part: All

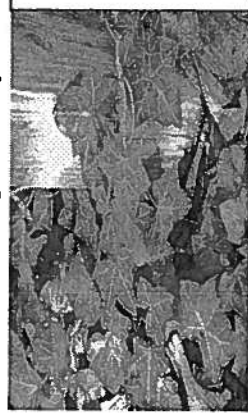
Elephant Ear



Symptoms:
 Vomiting
 Diarrhea
 Irritation
 Salivation

Poisonous Part: All

English Ivy



Symptoms:
 Difficult Breathing
 Excitement

Poisonous Part: Leaves

Flamingo Flower



Symptoms:
Irritation

Poisonous Part: All

Hyacinth



Symptoms:
Cramps
Vomiting
Diarrhea

Poisonous Part: Bulb

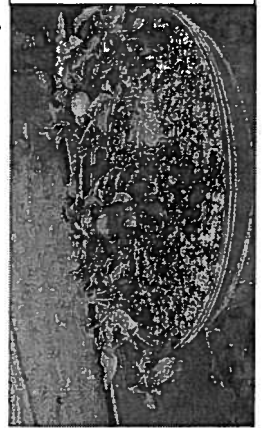
Hydrangea



Symptoms:
Vomiting
Diarrhea
Rapid
Breathing

Poisonous Part: Leaves &
buds

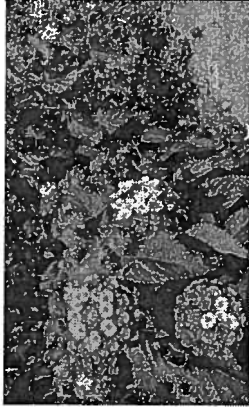
Jerusalem Cherry



Symptoms:
Paralysis
Low temp
Vomiting
Dilated
pupils
Difficult
Breathing

Poisonous Part: Leaves &
seeds

Lantana



Symptoms:
Weakness
Irritation

Poisonous Part: Green

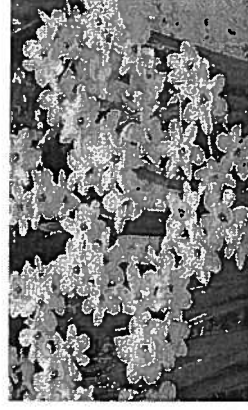
Milk Bush



Symptoms:
Swelling
Vomiting
Irritation

Poisonous Part: Sap

Narcissus



Symptoms:
Nausea
Vomiting
Diarrhea
Trembling
Convulsions

Poisonous Part: Bulb

Oleander



Symptoms:
Dizziness
Drowsy
↑ Pulse
Nausea
Vomiting
Weakness
Pain

Poisonous Part: All

Philodendron



Symptoms:
Vomiting
Diarrhea
Irritation

Poisonous Part: Leaves &
stems

Sedum



Symptoms:
Vomiting
Diarrhea
Difficult
Breathing

Poisonous Part: All

Tulip



Symptoms:
Vomiting
Diarrhea

Poisonous Part: Bulb

<http://www.plant-power.com>

[/poisonous_house_plants.htm](http://poisonous_house_plants.htm)