DANGEROUS HOUSE & GARDEN PLANTS to people and pets

When I lived in Vancouver, B.C., every year some children died from putting the flowers of a beautiful watering laburnum tree into their mouth. All parts of this tree are poisonous. There is no antidote.

Just like you protect children from electrical cords or stairs or other dangerous areas of the house, you can protect them from your house plants and garden plants by knowing which ones to avoid. Don't think little tots won't put the plant into their mouth - they put everything into their mouth!

African Violets – these are not the same as edible sweet violets. Do not consume.

Alder Buckthorn (Rhamnus): including Fragula. poisonous, skin & eye irritant. Buckthorn is used in herbal remedies.

Allamanda: poisonous and also irritant to skin and eyes.

Almonds – regular almonds are o.k. but not bitter almonds (cyanide).

Aloe: interesting that this is often listed as poisonous because you can buy aloe juice or gel in stores to drink. Aloes are prized for their ingredients used in skin salves and purgatives. Especially good for skin burns when applied externally. However, what is good for one is not necessarily good to another and some humans develop allergic contact dermatitis from this plant. The glycosidesin the plants are also poisonous if consumed in significant quantities. The acemannan content is being used now to treat cancer. Sometimes ingesting the aloe can produce diarrhea and excessive doses may cause kidney inflammation.

Amaryllis - a favourite house plant with tall lovely lily spike. The bulb can produce severe gastro irritation, convulsions, drop in blood pressure, abnormal blood rate.
Amaryllis (Hippeastrum) - a favourite house plant with tall lovely lily spike. Poisonous.
Amaryllis (Amaryllis belladonna) (also Amaryllis vittata):
sold as ornamental plant. Toxic alkaloid, lycorine makes bulbs poisonous.

American Elder (Sambucus canadensis): contains cyanogenic glycosides and a cathartic chemical. Plan has poisoned cattle and perhaps sheet. Children were poisoned after using the hollow stems for whistles. Ingesting uncooked berries may cause nausea.

American Mistletoe (Phoradendron flavescens). Used as mistletow at Christmas. Ingesting a large number of the berries or a tea made from the berries has led to poisoning and death. Keep out of reach of children and pets.

Angel's Trumpet (Brugmansia) - looks like an angel, doesn't act like one. Poison to humans and animals. You may see as an indoor plant, grown outdoor as an annual. Flowers may be white, pink or yellow. All parts of the plant are toxic. The plant is sometimes turned into an hallucinatory drug tea. Affects the gastro, respiratory, nervous and cardio systems. Similar to Datura (Jimson weed) and Black henban. Expect paralysis of smooth muscles, confusion, tachycardia, dry mouth, diarrhea, migraine headaches visual and auditory hallucinations, rapid onset cyclopedia, and death. Toxic levels vary from plant to plant. Best to hot handle the plant without wearing gloves or you might experience blurred vision.

Anthurium aka Flamingo flower: so lovely, poisonous and an irritant to skin and eyes.

Apricot Pit - not dangerous to adults but perhaps to a small child. Small amount can be eaten because of the laetrile for cancer.

Apple Seeds - not dangerous to adults, but perhaps to a baby. One particular email I got put them on the list of the 10 most deadly plants but I also know they are used for cancer (B17) as a laetrile substance.

Arrowhead Vine aka goosefoot vine (Syngonium): poisonous, skin & eye irritant.

Astragalus adsurgens: has accumulated toxic levels of selenium. Mostly affecting cattle, livestock. Astragalus lentiginosus: Mostly found in south-central B.C. Ingesting causes impairment of nervous system, depression, excitement with disturbed. Mostly affecting animals.

Australian Umbrella Tree (Brassaia actinophylla): Not much references except after a dog ate the leaves it showed toxic symptoms and experimental work revealed rates died after ingesting leaf tissue. Constituents attack spleen and gastro.

Autumn Crocus (Colchicum autumnale): Poisonous to all animals and humans. Outdoor ornamental used in garden cultivation or as houseplant.

Avocado (Persea americana) - People like to grow them in the house from the pits. Don't let family pets eat leaves. Seeds have caused death in canaries and mice. Don't allow leaves to accidentally fall into fish tanks.

Azalea - lovely small colourful bushes, often sold by nurseries as gift house plants, or as garden plants. omitting, drooling, diarrhea, weakness and depression. Can lead to coma and death from heart failure.

Belladonna – aka deadly nightshade. Contains tropain alkaloids. Can cause delirium, hallucinations, pupils enlarge, loss of voice, headaches, breathing difficulty, convulsions. The whole plant is poisonous. Children are attracted to the sweet berries. Ten to twenty berries can kill an adult. The leaves are even stronger and only one leaf can kill a man. One of the most poisonous plants in the world.

Baneberry: Poisonous, irritant to skin. Baneberry includes 2 species of low woodland plants that attract children to their berries which are either milky white or shiny reed. Eating as few as 6 berries can cause dizziness and severe stomach upset. The alkaloid it contains causes burning of the mouth and throat, confusion, dizziness, headaches and vomiting. In severe poisoning, breathing difficulty, then paralysis are followed by convulsions and death from asphyxiation and circulatory failure. Most victims do recover within 24 hours when treated.

Beans: castor, fava, broad, glory, scarlet runners, rosary peas, navy beans. The beans are o.k., not the plant.

Belladonna Lily (Amaryllis Belladonna): deadly. Can be fatal or people and animals after eating a small amount of leaves or berries. They have a somewhat sweet taste and children are often attracted to eat them.

Bird of paradise: Tropical import often found in people's homes.

Bleeding heart - one of the first garden plants to grow in the springtime.

Black Cherry (Prunus serotina). Leaves and twigs are considered poisonous to humans and animals. Cyanide poisoning in seeds have led to reports of children dying after ingesting an excessive number of seeds. Cyanide interferes with respiration and blood circulation, death is fast.

Black eyed Susan (Rudbeckia laciniata). Grows everywhere. Cattle and pigs have ingested the plant receiving mild symptoms therefore poisoning is not a great threat.

Black nightshade (Solanum nigrum). Found across southern Canada. Different than the eastern black nightshade. Black nightshade contains its highest concentration of toxic glycoalkaloids in the green immature berries. Animals and children have died after ingesting unripe berries. Once the berries ripen, the symptoms are reduced to mild abdominal pains, vomiting, diarrhea.

Note: some nurseries sell seed for garden huckleberry - these are Solanum melanocerasum and were previously known as Solanum nigrum or guineense. This plant has edible black fruits that can be used in pies, and jams.
In Solanum ptycanthum which is Eastern black nightshade, there are small amounts of toxin in the green berries. Solanum sarrachoides (hairy nightshade) has not been tested significantly.

Black Oak (Quercus velutina) is only found in southern Ontario. The acorns are toxic. The plant caused sickness and death in cattle after eating the acorns.

Black Walnut (Juglans nigra) is a true in southwestern Ontario. Used as an herbal remedy, the shavings of its wood may cause problems. Not much information.

Bleeding heart - one of the first garden plants to grow in the springtime.

Bloodroot (sanguinaria canadensis) - used only in healing salves.

Bluebell (Hyacinthoides): all parts are poisonous. poisonous

Blue Cohosh (Caulophyllum thalictroides): Plant contains chemicals that can cause cell damage. Powdered root can cause irritation of mucous membranes, possible dermatitis. Poison potential, no case histories found. Don't let the children eat the attractive blue fruits of this plant. Used frequently in herbal remedies.

Blue Flag (Iris versicolor): No case reports found but has been mentioned to cause poisoning in humans and animals. Plant juice can cause dermatitis in sensitive individuals.

Bog laurel (Kalmia polifolia): Found in boggy areas. Experiments have been done on livestock, sheep being the most susceptible. This variety is less toxic than sheep laurel (Kalmia angustifolia).

Bracken Fern (Pteridium Aquilinum): Common. Young leaf blades are coiled, getting the name 'fiddlehead'. There is an edible fiddlehead fern which grows on lowland and streamsides. The bracken however is found in upland, dry or rocky sites and is toxic to livestock and people and has been linked to stomach cancer in Japan where it is eaten as a vegetable. It is . The leaves and stems contain latex. The sap contains several glycosides which cause diarrhea and vomiting.

Broad bean (Vicia faba): cultivated plant. Beans are food and are edible to most. In some people who have a genetically transmitted male sex linked deficiency to the enzyme glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase, they cause favism. Certain groups of Orientals, Jews, Mediterranean Europeans, Arabs, Asians and Blacks may have the deficiency. This disease can cause death in severe cases. Livestock including pigs have been poisoned ingesting high quantities of beans. Cause metabolic problems in poultry.

Broom snakeweed (Gutierrezia sarothrae): Acutely toxic, abortion in cattle and has been experimentally induced in goats and sheep. More toxic in early stages of growth and if it grows on poor sandy soils.

Buckwheat (Fagopyrum esculentum): Grown to produce buckwheat honey and fodder for animals. Ingesting photosensitization in animals with exposed or light colored skin including cattle, goats, sheep, pigs, turkeys (exposure to sun is necessary). May also cause jaundice. Humans can be sensitized to dust from buckwheat flour after long exposure. Asthma is usual response although rare individuals may manifest food allergy reactions after ingesting food products containing buckwheat flour. No photosensitization in humans.

Buckthorn, European (Rhamnus cathartica): Shrub in Eastern Canada and the Prairies often growing alone fenced roadsides, old fields, undergrowth in woods. The bark and bruit contain strong purgative action. Severe poisoning is rare.

Bunny ears cactus (Opuntia microdasys): skin irritant

Burning Bush (Dictamnus): Skin irritant. Grows across southern Canada. It is related closely to the

European Spindletree which have poisoned children and horses.

Buttercups (Ranunculus): We used to hold these under our chins. A slight redness caused by the light contact is suppose to indicate you like butter. The chemical protoanemonin is an irritant. Prolonged contact can result in blisters from the glycoside it contains. The sap, flowers, seeds, leaves of all buttercup members contain toxins. In the past this plant has poisoned cattle, pigs and humans.

Caladium aka Angel's Wings (Caladium bicolor): Houseplant can cause burning irritation of lips. May be poisonous.

Calla Lily (Zantedeschia): poisonous, skin & eye irritant Canadian Milk Vetch (Astragalus canadensis): Experiments with sheep indicated that plane material must contain NO2 at 250mg/kg of body weight to produce toxic responses and 375mg/kg body weight for a lethal dose.

Canada Nettle (Laportea canadensis): stinging hairs on leaves and stem that can penetrate human skin. Tips of hairs break off, allowing contained liquid to penetrate the skin resulting in intense localized itching, made worse by applying water to area. Problem may persist for several weeks.

Canada Yew (Taxus canadensis): Several cattle ill and some died after ingesting leaves and twigs of a Canada yew that had been planted for ornamental purposes.

Candelabra-Cactus (Euphorbia lactea): Indoor ornamental plant. The latex juice of the plant contains an intense irritant that causes problems when it comes in contact with mucous membranes and eyes. Severe eye problems have been produced in dogs through experimenting. Avoid children and pets ingesting as well.

Cardinal Flower, Blue (Lobelia siphilitica or Lobelia cardinalis): Often in gardens. Contains alkaloid lobeline that caused poisoning in southern Ontario when someone used t e extract as a home remedy.

Cashew Nuts. They should not be eaten raw and so when you buy them in the store they have been steamed to kill the dangerous substance. Even if they say they are raw, they are not.

Castor Bean (Ricinus communis): Seeds can be fatal. Ornamental shrub, occasionally planted indoors or outdoors as rapidly growing annual ornamental. The beans contain ricin (deadly) and to a lesser extent, the leaves, ricin is a protein, which is highly toxic in small quantities. Humans, cattle, dogs, goats, horses, poultry, rabbits, sheet, pigs have been poisoned after ingesting seeds. Seed coat must be damaged to allow water to penetrate the inside the seed which releases the water soluble toxin. The toxin has been used for suicides and assassinations. 2-4 chewed seeds can cause death in children. Don't allow these plants to set seeds! One raw seed is enough to kill a human in 2 days which makes for a long, agonizing death. First symptom occurs within a few hours as a burning sensation in the throat and mouth, abdominal pain, diarrhea, and vomiting. Death is unstoppable. Final cause of death will be dehydration.

Castor Oil Plant (Ricinus cinnybus): Poisonous. Seeds can kill animals and humans, even eating one seed.

Chaste Tree (Vitex): skin irritant. Used in herbal formulas.

Chenille Plant aka Copperleaf (Acalypha): Not only poisonous, also irritant to skin and eyes.

Cherry Laurel (Prunus laurocerasus): poisonous

Cherry pits. Don't chew or swallow. They contain cyanogenic glycosides, producing cyanide. Seeds, leaves and bark contain a cyanide producing compound called amygdalin which can increase heart rate, difficulty breathing, kidney failure, coma, respiratory arrest if eating too much.

Chinese Evergreen (Aglaonema): poisonous and a skin & eye irritant. Its immature fruit contains solanine, causing gastroenteritis and diarrhea in children. Mature fruit apparently is edible.

Chinese Lantern (Physalis alkekengi)

Christmas Cherry (Solanum):

Chrysanthemum: may not be poisonous, but is listed as a skin irritant (which is interesting because the Chinese use Chrysanthemum flowers as tea for skin problems). Gastro intestinal upset and trembling if enough of the plant is consumed.

Clematis: has a glycoside that can cause a severe skin irritant.

Climbing Nightshade (Solanum dulcamara): woody vine often found along fencerows, among shrubbery in southern Canada. Its green immature fruits contain steroidal alkaloids, causing poisoning in cattle and sheep. Humans also have been poisoned from eating the unripened berries. The mature red berries have a small amount of toxin and not very threatening.

Cobra-Lily (Arisaema): poisonous, also irritant to skin and eyes.

Cocklebur (Xanthium strumarium): mostly found in southern Canada in wet areas and agricultural fields. Livestock are commonly poisoned after eating the young seed leaves which contain glycoside carboxyatractyloside. Cattle, horses and pigs have been poisoned after ingesting. Humans can get dermatitis from contact.

Colorado Rubberweed (Hymenoxys richardsonii): Found in southern prairie area. Has poisoned and killed sheep, goats, occasionally cattle. The Sheep and goats eat the plant if there isn't much else to eat therefore poisoning happens mostly in spring and late autumn which pickin's are slim. Cattle seem not to like the taste and naturally avoid eating it.

Comfrey (Symphytum): listed as poisonous, but both leaves and roots are used as tea herbal remedies as well as extracts. This plant grows all over Canada and contains several pyrrolizidine alkaloids, which the Government of Canada says can cause veno-occlusive symptoms, liver cirrhosis and death but topical herbal preparations are not considered toxic because they don't reach the liver. Same for Russian Comfrey.

Coriaria: poisonous

Corncockle (Agrostemma): just plain ol' poisonous.

Crepe Jasmine (Tabernaemontana): poisonous

Croton (Codiaeum Variegatum): This is grown as an ornamental houseplant. It contains an oil that is violently purgative and irritating and is suspected of being a co-carcinogen (cancer causing if taking certain prescription drugs). It tastes awful so poisonings are rare. The sap is the most toxic, fresh or dried. Sometimes children think the seedpods are capers and eat them. The latex in the plant has caused eczema in some gardeners.

Crown of Thorns: cause skin rashes, blistering, eye irritation. High doses result in intense burning of the mouth, throat and stomach, uncontrollable salivation, convulsions; sometimes coma and death. Wear gloves when pruning and avoid the juice being rubbed on the skin or eyes. Don't let family pets near the plant.

Cyclamen (Cyclamen persicum): houseplant with toxic saponin in the tuberous rhizomes. They are found in the soil and are bitter so it is rare children or pets bother with them. Roots are most toxic. Gastro intestinal irritation, intense vomiting. Death has been reported.

Cinnamon. Although we use as a flavouring agent and keeping blood sugar in check, it contains coumarin, and is toxic to the liver and can cause damage. If you take on a daily basis, switch to Ceylon cinnamon which has low coumarin content.

Cypress Spurge (Euphorbia cyparissias): Found in southern Canada. New York State has reported loss

of cattle to due the plant being mixed in with the hay. Its latex juice can be irritating to sensitive people causing inflammation.

Daffodil (Narcissus): poisonous, skin & eye irritant, gastro upset. The above ground parts cause skin irritation, as can the bulbs. People have ingested daffodil bulbs thinking they were onions and have been poisoned. Cattle have been fed the plants when other plants are scarce and also were poisoned. Contains lycorine and calcium oxalate crystals.

Daphne (mezereon, spurge laurel): poisonous, skin irritant. Family pets also can be poisoned.

Death camas (Zigadenus venenosus): found in B.C., Alberta, and southwest Saskatchewan. Very toxic in springtime, especially to sheep. Cattle and horses occasionally also poisoned. Pigs vomit the plant easily which avoids being poisoned. Although it may poison poultry, no cases have been reported. Honey bees are poisoned by the nectar and pollen. Humans poisoned after ingesting bulbs when they were mistaken for onions. Ingesting flowers and buds has poisoned children.

Delphinium (incl. Consolida): poisonous. The alkaloid it contains causes burning of the mouth and throat, confusion, dizziness, headaches and vomiting. In severe poisoning, breathing difficulty, then paralysis are followed by convulsions and death from asphyxiation and circulatory failure. Most victoms do recover within 24 hours when treated.

Devil's Backbone (Kalanche daigremontiana): indoor ornamental plant contains cardiac glycoside that has caused experimental toxicity and death in chicks and mice. Has caused illness in pets such as rabbits and mice. Dogs and cats are also at risk. Keep away from children. Plant produces plantlets along leaf margins which fall off and become new plants - are found easily around the plant's pot and are easily accessed by children and pets.

Devil's Ivy (Epipremnum): poisonous, skin & eye irritant

Doll's eye plant – Whole plant is toxic to humans, but the fruit is most toxic and has killed children because the fruit has a sweet taste. The berries has a carcinogenic seditative effect, acts quickly and can cause a quick death.

Dragon Arum (Dracunculus): poisonous, skin & eye irritant

Dumbcane (Dieffenbachia bausei): Houseplant. Poisonous, skin & eye irritant

Echium: skin irritant

Elder aka Elderberry . (Sambucus - except Sambucus nigra): poisonous. Berries are made into jams and jellies. Seeds, bark, leaves, flowers and unripened fruit of elderberries are considered dangerous as the risk of poisoning by alkaloid or a cyanide-producing glycoside. Typically livestock or children will consume young shoots, leaves or seeds. In very small doses, the human digestive tract is capable of breaking down plant cyanides into harmless compounds. Nausea, vomiting and diarrhea may result. Sambucus canadensis has edible fruit, used in jams, jellies and wine; berries must be ripe. A tea made from the leaves and stems is used as a herbal cure.

Elder, European (Sambucus nigra): Contains cyanogenic glycosides. Pigs reported poisoned in Europe and cases of cattle and turkeys have been reported as well. Berries eaten raw can cause nausea and vomiting in humans. Keep berries away from children.

English Bluebell (Endymion non-scriptus): Ornamental bulb, grows outdoors and often people force it in early spring as an indoor plant. Contains glycosides, chemically similar to digitalis. Cattle, horse, humans have been poisoned after ingesting plant. Prevent children and family pets from chewing the plant.

English Holly (Ilex aquifolium)- The berries are the problem. Fatal dosage of 20-30 berries when eaten by children in old European literative. New information shows usually just vomiting, muscular weakness

and diarrhea for symptoms. This holly is used in Christmas decorations. The berries are the problem.

English Ivy (Hedera helix)- Contains saponins causing poisoning in cattle, dogs, sheep and people. Chemicals in its sap can cause severe dermatitis if you are sensitive. People who ingested the berries have been ill and some in coma. Keep away from family pets.

English Yew (Taxus baccata): Poisoned cattle, horses and people. Cases of death. Leaves, bark or seeds are all poisonous. The fleshy fruit pulp is considered nontoxic which allows the birds to spread the new offspring. Muscle tremors, collapse and death from cardiac arrest. It is said to act so quickly that the beginning stages are usually unnoticed.

Eucalyptus - usually we have this dried in flower arrangements in the home.

Euonymus - see spindle tree - common bush in the garden. Poisonous.

Euphorbia (aka spurge): poisonous, skin & eye irritant. Note that poinsettia and E. pulcherrima versions are not harmful.

European burning bush - common bush in the garden, turns bright red in the fall.

European Pennyroyal - used as an herb very carefully, but not to be around children and animals.

German Ivy - garden plant

Grass, sorghum - in the garden and used in flower arrangements.

Ground ivy - common garden plant.

False Hellebore (Veratrum viride): Poisonous. Has poisoned cattle, poultry and sheep, some have died. Humans also have been poisoned. Extrats from the plant have been used in cases of hypertension and as an insecticide.

Fiddleneck (Amsinckia intermedia): Eating the seeds results in hepatic (liver) cirrhosis. Affects horses, pigs, cattle.

Flax - the seeds are ok. but don't eat the plant.

Four o'clock (Mirabilis)- great colourful garden flowers. Poisonous, skin irritant.

Foxglove (Digitalis purpurea) - Not to be eaten by anyone. Used as heart medicine called digitoxin, a potent cardiac or steroid glycoside eaten by anyone. The sap, flowers, seeds and leaves are poisonous. Children are attracted to drinking rainwater from the vase like blooms. Symptoms are pain in the mouth or throat, followed by vomiting, diarrhea, severe headache, irregular pulse, breathing, heartbeat. Convulsions and death from cardiac arrest can occur if poisoning is severe enough.

Fremontodendron: skin & eye irritant

Gaultheria/Pernettya: poisonous

German Ivy - garden plant

German primula (Primula obconica): skin irritant

Giant Hogweed (Heracleum): severe skin irritant in bright sunlight

Glory Lily (Gloriosa superba): poisonous

Gourd, bottle (Lagenaria): poisonous

Grass, sorghum - in the garden and used in flower arrangements.

Greater Celandine Plant (Chelidonium majus): Poisonous; skin and eye irritant. Used by herbalists for remedies.

Ground ivy - common garden plant.

Groundsel, common (Senecio vulgaris): found in most of Canada in fields and waste places. Contains pyrrolizidine alkaloids causing irreversible liver damage after chronic exposure. Cattle and horses have died after ingesting. Humans use as herbal remedies. Entire leaved groundsel also causes same problems.

Heaths - not too many in our area. Lots in England.

Heliotrope - found in our gardens, usually you buy these at the Garden Centers.

Henbane (Hyoscyamus): poisonous. Black Henbane (Hyoscyamus niger) is found in the southern parts of Canada. Poison to humans, cattle, poultry, pigs. Human poisoning has been accidental or purposeful because of its reported medicinal or hallucinogenic properties eating seeds or chewing flowers.

Hops (Humulus lupulus): used in beer making. Hop pickers can develop dermatitis (skin rash).

Horse Chestnut (Aesculus): Don't think you can eat this because it is called a chestnut - it is not the same.

Horsetail (Equisetum arvense): Often used as human herb, but contains thiaminase, causing thiamine deficiency in horses. Some cattle also affected. In Canada hoses have been poisoned ingesting field horsetail.

Hyacinth (Hyachinthus): skin irritant. Bulb is toxic causing nausea, vomiting, diarrhea which can be fatal.

Iris (versicolor): poisonous, skin irritant. Used in herbal remedies.

Irish - undergrown stems considered toxic, causing severe upset digestive system, but not usually that serious.

Ivy (Hedera): poisonous, skin & eye irritant. Used in herbal remedies.

Jack in the Pulpit - all parts are toxic but especially the roots. Much like the Dumb Cane Plant (Dieffenbachia) which causes burning and irritation of the mouth and tongue from the small calcium oxalate needle-like crystals contained in the plant.

Japanese Yew - affects central nervous system causing trembling, inco-ordination, and difficulty breathing. It can also cause gastro intestinal irritation and heart failure which can result in death. Not common in dogs, but cases are commonly reported in cattle and horses.

Jerusalem cherry - sold as house plant.

Jimsenweed. All parts are poisonous.

Kalmia aka Calico bush: poisonous

Kidney beans, red. If not cooked well, the lectin it contains can cause poisoning – even eating 1-3 beans - nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain. Cook at high temperature for right length of time and soak at least 8 hours before cooking.
Kalanchoe - gastrointestinal irritation, heart rhythm and rate problems.

Laburnocytisus 'Adamii': poisonous

Laburnum aka Watering Laburnum Tree: found in Vancouver, B.C. area. Deadly flowers.
Lantana Plant - green berries are toxic. It is found growing wild in the southern U.S., and used as a landscape ground cover or potted plant. Results can be fatal, affecting kidneys, lungs, nervous system and heart.

Lantana: poisonous, skin & eye irritant

Larkspur: poisonous. The alkaloid it contains causes burning of the mouth and throat, confusion, dizziness, headaches and vomiting. In severe poisoning, breathing difficulty, then paralysis are followed by convulsions and death from asphyxiation and circulatory failure. Most victims do recover within 24 hours when treated.

Lauren (Prunus laurocerasus):

Leyland Cypress (Cupressocyparis leylandii): skin irritant

Ligustrum aka Privet: poisonous

Lilies - most are toxic including easter, star gazer and tiger lillies. Even small amounts can result in stomach upset in dogs.

Lily of the Valley (Convallaria majalis): listed as poisonous. Used as herbal remedy.

Lobelia (Lobelia inflata) (except bedding lobelia, L.erinus): poisonous; skin & eye irritant. Used in herbal remedies. Symptoms of poisoning from overdosing the plant extract: collapse, coma, death, pain, paralysis, sweating, vomiting.

Locust Tree aka black locust (Robinia pseudoacacia): poisonous. Found in warmer parts of Canada. Seeds, bark, leaves cause sickness and death in animals and humans. Often these trees are found around older farms and houses.

Lupine (Lupinus): poisonous. Causes horses to act crazy getting the name 'locoweed'. Burke's Lupine (Lupinus burkei) is found in Southern B.C. This species can affect calves if ingested.

Manchineel Tree. All parts toxic. Contains phorbol and other skin irritants. Just contact with the plant can produce dermatitis. Also called 'death apples" because the fruit tastes sweet and tasty but are actually very toxic. Found in Caribbean. If you burn the tree, the smoke can damage the eyes. Ingesting produces gastroenteritis, shock, bacterial superinfection.

Mandrake (Mandragora): poisonous. Used carefully in herbal preparations.

Marijuana seeds depresses central nervous system of dogs and can cause drooling, elevated heart rate, seizures, death. Long term ingestion of marijuana pills or smoke can cause gastroenteritis in humans.

Marsh Marigold: contains highly toxic alkaloids.

Milkweed (Asclepias syriaca): Found most waste areas of Canada. The plant has poisoned sheep in the eastern U.S. from the cardiac glycosides it contains which are toxic to animals.

May Apple (Podophyllum): poisonous

Monkshood (Aconitum). We use this homeopathically for flu, but it is poisonous if eaten. It is also an irritant to the skin. The alkaloid it contains causes burning of the mouth and throat, confusion, dizziness, headaches and vomiting. In severe poisoning, breathing difficulty, then paralysis are folowed by convulsions and death from asphyxiation and circulatory failure. Most victoms do recover within 24 hours when treated.

Morning Glory (Ipomoca): listed as poisonous. Has been used as hallucinagenic.

Narcissus (Daffodil): poisonous, skin & eye irritant. Bulb is toxic causing nausea, vomiting, diarrhea which can be fatal.

Oak - common tree. The acorns and foliage are known to be toxic. Symptoms slowly appear over days or weeks and can gradually affect the kidneys. You do have to eat a large amount to be poisoned.

Oleander (nerium oleander): poisonous. All parts are toxic. Affects gastro, CNS, heart. Can be deadly. Branches and leaves extremely poisonous. Death, severe upset digestive system, affects heart. All parts are toxic. Stomach irritation, abnormal heart function, drop in body temperature.

Ornamental Pepper (Capsicum annum): skin and eye irritant as well as poisonous.

Ornithogalum (Chincherinchee): see Star of Bethlehem

Passion Flower (Passiflora caerulea): poisonous. Used as sedative in herbal and homeopathic remedies.

Peace lily (Spathiphyllum): poisonous, skin & eye irritant

Peruvian Lily (Alstroemeria): this is most likely not poisonous, but will irritate the skin.

Philodendron: poisonous, skin & eye irritant.

Plantain (Plantago): the whole plant is edible, but there have been a few cases of hay fever when the flower spikes release copious amounts of dust like wind borne pollen.

Poinsettia (Poinsettia): A Christmas houseplant, it is a spurge. Poinsettia is not as poisonous as other spurges, but can still cause vomiting if eaten or skin irritation if the sap is contacted directly. It is also thought to be co-carcinogenic, that is cancer causing if taking certain prescription medications.

Peace Lily (spathphyllium) not same family as our garden lilies. Any part eaten can cause irritation, swelling of mouth and other parts of intestinal tract.

Poison Ivy, Poison Sumach, Japanese Lacquer Tree (Rhus verniciflua, R. toxicarium, R. radicans, R.succedenea, R. diversiloba, R. rydbergii, R. striata, R. vernix): poisonous, severe skin. Rhus Toxicarium is used in homeopathic formulas for arthritis and skin irritations.

Pokeweed (Phytolacca): poisonous, skin & eye irritant. Used in herbal remedies.

Polyscias: poisonous, skin irritant

Poppy, opium (Papaver somniferum): poisonous.

Potato leaves and any part of the potato that is green. Also the little potato sprouts.

Pothos - (epipremnum aureum) - swelling tissues of mouth and gastro tract.

Privet, common (Ligustrum vulgare): often seen as formal hedge where trimming cuts off the flowers and berries. In old literature of Europe, it was noted ingesting up to 12 berries caused children to vomit and have diarrhea.

Ragweed (Ambrosia). Ragweed is the number one cause of hay fever. It grows abundantly throughout all of North America. Ragweed pollen stimulates antibody production which stimulates histamine production. Histamines in turn cause localization dilation of blood vessels (redness), increased fluid secretion (runny nose), tissue swelling (stuffy nostrils, puffy eyes), sneezing, rhinitis (inflamed, itchy nose and throat). Severity varies with individual but repeated severe attacks may result in asthma and/or secondary infections of inflamed tissue that cause chronic sinusitis, headaches, and insomnia.

Depending on when your hayfever is, you can sometimes pinpoint the source. If you sneeze and sniffle through May - June, you are more likely bothered by trees such as alder and birch. In June and July, it is often grass pollens. But ragweed can keep you miserable all spring and summer. Homeopathics often can help.

Rhododendron are poisonous to grazing anmal because of a toxin called graanotoxin in the pollen and nectar. People have been known to become ill from eating honey by bees feeding on rhododendron flowers. Toxin can cause heart rate to change as well as irregular heart rhythm, low blood pressure.

Rhubarb (garden variety). The stalks we do eat but do not eat the leaves (they contain oxalic acid). Also, we found out if the rhubarb grows close to a fish pond and the leaves drop in, it can kill the fish.

Rosary Pea. The red and black peas when ingested can cause death (even one pea). Those making jewellery from the peas have died when they accidentally pricked their finger while handling the rosary pea.

Rue (Ruta): severe skin irritant in bright sunlight. Used in herbal remedies.

Sago Palm - all parts are poisonous. Seed pod is most serious and dog eating just one can have disastrous effects including vomiting, diarrhea, seizures, liver failure and death.

Sambucus (except Sambucus nigra) aka Elder: poisonous

Schefflera - have tiny needle crystals that can cause swelling of mouth and gastro tract, resulting in difficulty in breathing.

Scilla: poisonous

Skunk Cabbage (Lysichiton) poisonous, skin & eye irritant. Used as herbal remedy.

Snow of the Mountain (Euphorbia marginata): Lovely garden ornamental plant. Eating the leaves causes intense burning of themouth, throat and stomach, unconrollable salivation, and sometimes worse. Casual handling can cause skin irritation, without wearing gloves. There is a case on record where a woman used snow-on-the-mountain as an abortive and died.

Snowberry (Symphoricarpos): poisonous

Solanum: most species are poisonous

Solomon's Seal (Polygonatum): poisonous. Used in herbal formulas.

Sorrel (Rumex acetosa): Garden Sorrel often cultivated as a garden plant. Ingesting large quantities has caused toxicity in sheep and cattle in countries other than Canada. Humans should restrict their intake of leaves because they contain oxalate crystals.

Spanish Broom (Spartium junceum): poisonous

Spindle Tree (Euonymous europaeus): Shrub has poisoned children, goats, sheep. Children are attracted to he mature fleshy orange fruit which contains seeds with cardiac glycosides and alkaloids. Children have become ill. Fatal poisoning of 2 horses after ingesting shoots of the plant in the 1980's.

Spurge: see Euphorbia. All spurges cause vomiting, nausea and/or diarrhea if eaten.

St. John's Wort (Hypericum perforatum): Poisonous to eat. It is made into remedies for depression by herbalists and the flowers are often soaked in oil which turns a nice reddish colour and then it is used as a massage oil to uplift the spirits. If an area is crowed with this plant, livestock run a high risk of repeated exposure. Poison information say that the phototoxins in the plant make the skin sensitive to ultraviolet radiation in sunlight and other light sources.

Star of Bethlehem (Ornithogalum): poisonous, skin & eye irritant. Bulbs are toxic, causing nervous excitement and vomiting.One of the Bach Flower Remedies, homeopathic.

Sumach: see Poison Ivy. Most sumac shrubs are non-poisonous. But then there is poison sumac. This is a small shrub, double rows of leaves on each stem leaves upward pointing. Leaves are oblong or oval tapering to a wedge or point on each end and there will be no jagged 'tooth' appearance. Plant is deciduous and fallen leaves may still be poisonous to the touch. Poison sumac flowers have pale yellow green flowers in spring/summer which grow in clusters on their own green stems, separate from the red leafy stems. Berries may replace the flowers. If the berries are red, and the rest of the plant fits the description, it is likely non-poisonous.
In winter, white berries or empty berry stems may be seen. Poison sumac is still poisonous
Sun Spurge (Euphorbia Helioscopia): Common garden ornamental. Its sunny hellow flowers and capsules often attract curious fingers. Sometimes children think the seed pods are a fruit to be eaten. The sap contains a latex that can cause intense pain in the mouth, vomiting and poisoning if ingested. Fatal cases reported.

Swiss Cheese Plant (Monstera deliciosa): poisonous, skin & eye irritant

Tansy Ragwort (Senecio jacobaea). Not to be confused with the regular Tansy (Tanacetum vulgare). If in an area, tansy ragwort is a common cause of cattle and horse poisoning and milk produced by affected cows or goats can contain toxins. Tansy Ragwort is identified as a carcinogenic (cancer causing) for some that touched or ate it. Like Ragweed, breathing in its pollen can cause allergic reaction.

Taro Plant (Alocasta): Taro root is eaten as a vegetable, not the rest of the plant. Listed as poisonous and also skin and eye irritant.

Thornapple (Datura): poisonous, skin irritant

Tobacco Plant (Nicotiana): poisonous

Tulip (Tulipa): skin irritant. Bulbs - the deer like them, but we shouldn't eat them. The bulbs can cause intense gastro intestinal irritation, drooling, loss of appetite, depression of CNS, convulsions and cardiac abnormalities, especially in dogs.

Tomato. Green leaves, stems and unripened fruit can be harmful if eaten in large amounts.

Umbrella Tree (Schefflera): Skin irritant

Vetch, common (Vicia sativa): According to old European literature, this plant has poisoned livestock, horses . In western U.S. poultry ingested seeds of common milk vetch and died. The plant contaisn neurolathyrogen that may be responsible for neurolathyrism which occurs in humans in India and is associated with species of grass pea.

Virginia Creeper. Some literature suggests the plant is not poisonous, but the sap of the plant contains oxalate crystals that can cause skin irritation and rashes. Berries do not taste very good. No reports of deaths. The plant is used medicinally in its various forms.

Water Arum (Calla palustris): poisonous, also skin and eye irritant. Risk is minimal.

Water Hemlock or Poison parsnip. Have very small white or green flowers arranged in an umbrella shape. This is considered to be North America's most poisonous plant. Contains cipitoxin which causes seizures. The poison is in all parts of the plant but is strongest in the roots which is most potent in the spring. Seizures are almost immediate. Other symptoms: vomiting, abdominal pain, tremors, and confusion. Death is usually from respiratory failure or ventricular fibrillation and can occur within a few hours after ingesting. So poisonous, best to avoid handling it at all.

Weeping Fig (Ficus benjamina): may cause skin allergy

White Snakeroot. Aka White Sanicle, Tall boneset, Richweed. Ageratina altissima(botanical name). Contains toxin tremetrol. Indirectly affecting humans by cattle eating the plant and the toxin is absorbed into the meat and milk which is then ingested by people causing 'milk sickness', highly fatal. Thousands of European settlers died from this in America in the early 19th century.

Wisteria – Poisonous. Toxic seeds and pods. Many children have experienced poisoning having mild to severe upset digestive system.

Wormwood (Artemisia species). These are attractive in the garden and can be bought at nurseries. Both the pollen and the volatile oil thujonne can be problematic to sensitive people, and especially if high doses of thujonne. Alcohol made from Artemisia absinithium by 1915, it was banned in the U.S. And much of Europe including France.. It's flavour was that of anise/liquorice. Although vilified, it has not been found to be much different than other alcohol intoxication and the psychoactive properties have been exaggerated.
Dusty miller is another common plant that can release a lot of pollen if it is allowed to flower.

Yesterday,Today and Tomorrow (Brunfelsia): poisonous

Yew (Taxus): poisonous. Used in medical formula.

WHAT TO DO IF POISONING OCCURS:

If it is an animal that is poisoned, take it to a veterinary office.

If it is a human, go the the Emergency Department of the closest hospital.

Don't try and force vomiting, seek medical attention.