

## Managing Harmful Plant Risks

### Introduction

There are several plant varieties in the UK, both native and invasive, which may pose a risk if unmanaged in playing fields, gardens and other outdoor areas. While these plants do pose a hazard, the risk of serious poisoning by plants, skin reactions and allergies is generally low in the UK.

The purpose of this document is to highlight the potential risks associated with some more common plant varieties in the UK and assist **RAISE-AP** in proportionate management of these risks. Remember – Health and Safety management in provisions should be sensible, and complete removal of risks can have a detrimental impact on the learning environment. Many of the plants listed in this document provide an important role in the ecosystem and risk can be minimised through education and supervision. This is not a list of plants which must be removed from sites; although some invasive species are strictly controlled by law and may need removal if they are at risk of spreading to adjoining land.

### Quick facts

- If it is not a food plant, do not eat it.
- Teach children not to play with or eat growing plants.
- Use gloves when pruning or weeding and keep skin covered.
- Do not leave pruning debris or uprooted plants in reach of farm animals or pets.
- Check plant labels for toxicity warnings (sometimes stated on label).

### Main hazards

#### Ingestion

- Children are at highest risk of accidental ingestion of harmful plants
- Some plants may cause digestive upset or discomfort if eaten
- A small number of common garden plants are more toxic and could cause severe poisoning

## Contact hazard

Contact with plants can cause skin irritation, either through sap on the surface of the plant, or spines which excrete chemicals such as formic acid (e.g. "Stinging" Nettles).

Sap is a fluid that circulates through a plant's vascular system, in a similar way to blood moving through our veins. Phloem sap carries the sugars produced in the leaves by photosynthesis down to roots and other storage organs, as well as carrying minerals and hormones. Xylem sap is watery and transports nutrients absorbed by the roots upwards to the rest of the plant. Some plants leak sap from wounds or pruning cuts, and this is known as bleeding.

Irritant sap may cause a burning sensation and sometimes blistering of the skin; anyone can be affected if exposure is sufficient

Some plants contain chemicals called allergens. These do not affect everyone, but some individuals may acquire sensitivity to them, resulting in an allergic reaction

A very small number of plants have sap which renders the skin excessively sensitive to strong sunlight. Contact with the plant followed by exposure to sunlight results in very severe, localised sunburn with blistering and long-lasting skin discolouration

## What to do if there's a problem

### Adults and children

- If you think a child or adult has eaten part of a doubtful plant, seek medical advice immediately from a hospital Accident & Emergency department
- Take a sample of the plant with you
- Do not panic and DO NOT try to make the person sick

## Pets

The HTA Guide to [Potentially Harmful Plants](#) gives toxicity information for pets, including dogs, cats, rabbits, rodents, tortoises, caged birds, and poultry. Where a particular pet is mentioned in the HTA Guide this indicates that type of pet has been adversely affected by a plant; it does not mean that other types of pet will not be affected if they eat or rub against the plant.

- Seek veterinary advice if you think an animal has eaten a poisonous plant
- Take along samples of the plant concerned

## Plant and fungi

Fungi are safe to have in the garden as long as they are not eaten. With a couple of exceptions, the effects of accidentally eating small amounts are mild. If you need to [identify a mushroom](#), take photos from all angles, from the top, sides and from underneath so the stem (stipe) and gills/pores are visible. It is safe to touch fungi, as long as you wash your hands afterwards. In cases of suspected poisoning, seek medical assistance at an Accident and Emergency Department, taking a sample of the plant or fungus/mushroom with you.

## Plants potentially harmful to people

Below is a list of plants found in the UK which might pose a risk if consumed or improperly handled and may be found growing in gardens, woodlands and on riverbanks. Staff and pupils should not handle these plants, and should be informed of the associated risks. Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed are invasive species, and it is recommended these be removed by a competent professional.

Name	Description / Where it's found	Toxicity and Symptoms
Deadly Nightshade <i>Atropa belladonna</i>	Has purple-green, bell-shaped flowers and untoothed, oval leaves. The berries start green and ripen to black. Found mainly in the southern half of the UK in woodland, along paths and in scrubby areas.	All parts of the plant are toxic, but the berries are especially poisonous. Consumption causes severe symptoms including sweating, vomiting, breathing difficulties, confusion, hallucinations and potential coma and death. It also has a pupil-widening effect.



Name	Description / Where it's found	Toxicity and Symptoms
Foxglove <i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	This common woodland plant is tall and narrow with pink and purple flowers, seen in early summer. It grows throughout the UK, along woodland edges, roadside verges and hedgerows. It's also a common garden plant. It is often misidentified as Comfrey, <i>Symphytum officinale</i> .	Foxglove plants contain toxic cardiac glycosides. Ingestion of any parts of the plant can result in severe poisoning. Symptoms include nausea, headache, skin irritation and diarrhoea. In severe cases it can lead to visual and perceptual disturbances and heart and kidney problems.



Name	Description / Where it's found	Toxicity and Symptoms
Lords-and-ladies <i>Arum maculatum</i>	Also known as cuckoo pint, you'll find this plant in woodland and along hedgerows. It has large, arrow-shaped, purple-spotted leaves at the base of the plant. Its flowering spike has a yellow-green hood surrounding the flower spike (spadix). Its berries are green, orange or red, depending on their ripeness.	Take care when handling this plant. All parts of it can cause allergic reactions, but the berries are particularly poisonous. The plant contains minute needle-shaped crystals which can severely irritate the skin. Consumption can lead to throat swelling, breathing difficulties and stomach irritation. It's rare to accidentally eat large quantities of this plant because it has an acrid taste and gives a tingling sensation which acts as a warning.



Name	Description / Where it's found	Toxicity and Symptoms
Monkshood <i>Aconitum napellus</i>	Also known as Adam and Eve or devil's helmet, this is one of the UK's most poisonous plants. It's widely naturalised, but may be native in damp woodlands, meadows and along ditches in the southern half of the UK. Its attractive hooded blue flowers have made it a popular garden plant and you'll find cultivars in varying colours including pink, yellow and white. Its flowers grow on tall spikes that bloom between June and September.	All parts of the plant are poisonous, particularly the roots. If ingested, it can cause stomach pain and dizziness. The poison also affects the heart and in large amounts can be fatal, but poisonings are rare as it has such an unpleasant flavour. Toxins can even transfer to the skin via cuts, so it is important to always wear gloves when handling plants in your garden.



Name	Description / Where it's found	Toxicity and Symptoms
Poison hemlock <i>Conium maculatum</i>	Poison hemlock is sometimes confused with other species in the Apiaceae family such as cow parsley. It's a large plant up to 2m tall, with hollow, purple-blotched stems. The mature plants have an unpleasant smell apparently similar to mouse urine. You'll find it in damp areas along the edges of woodland, along ditches, streams and roadside verges.	It contains several toxic alkaloids including coniine and is poisonous to humans and livestock. Consumption of just a small amount of any part of the plant can cause respiratory paralysis and death.



Name	Description / Where it's found	Toxicity and Symptoms
Japanese knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i>	<p>Introduced as an ornamental garden plant by the Victorians. It's now common in urban areas, especially on wasteland, railways, roadsides and riverbanks. Tough enough to grow through asphalt, it can lead to structural damage. It affects our woods too, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• outcompeting native species</li><li>• contributing to river bank erosion and increasing the likelihood of flooding.</li></ul>	<p>Even the smallest fragment of root can grow a new plant so it spreads easily, making it challenging and expensive to manage. In fact, Japanese knotweed is so problematic that it's a criminal offence to plant it or cause it to grow in the wild.</p> <p>While not harmful to humans, it is an invasive species which can cause significant damage and ecological harm. If identified it should be reported to the <a href="#">Local Authority or Environment Agency</a>, or follow guidance from the <a href="#">Environment Agency</a>.</p> <p>It is illegal to plant or deliberately allow Japanese knotweed to spread in the UK.</p>



Name	Description / Where it's found	Toxicity and Symptoms
Giant hogweed <i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	<p>When it's fully grown, it can reach heights of between 1.5m to 5m and have a spread of between 1 and 2m. It forms a rosette of jagged, lobed leaves in the first year before sending up a flower spike in the second year and then setting seed. Stems are green, often with purple blotches and stiff, white, bristly hairs. Stems are hollow with ridges and have a thick circle of hairs at the base of each leaf stalk.</p> <p>Leaves grow up to 1.5m wide and 3m long, deeply divided into smaller leaflets. It looks a bit like a rhubarb leaf, with irregular and very sharp or jagged, leading to it being sometimes referred to as wild rhubarb. The underside of the leaf is hairy.</p> <p>Flowers appear in June and July. They are small, upward facing and white, or slightly pink, and are clustered on umbrella-like heads that can reach a diameter of 60cm.</p> <p>Found throughout much of the UK, especially colonising river banks where its seeds are transported by the water.</p>	<p>The sap of giant hogweed can cause burns. It contains furocoumarin, which makes skin extremely sensitive to sunlight (phytophotodermatitis). If the sap gets onto your skin and is then exposed to the sun, your skin can blister badly. Blistering can then recur over months and even years. This is known as phytotoxicity.</p> <p>The best way to avoid injury is to familiarise yourself with the plant and avoid contact with your skin. Brushing through patches of giant hogweed and exposing yourself to plants that have been cut might cause you to get sap on your skin.</p> <p>If you do get giant hogweed sap on your skin, be sure to wash the area thoroughly and immediately. Seek medical advice and do not expose the area to sunlight for a few days.</p> <p>It is illegal to plant or deliberately allow giant hogweed to spread in the UK. If identified it should be reported to the <a href="#">Local Authority or Environment Agency</a>, or follow guidance from the <a href="#">Environment Agency</a>.</p>



## Use of Glyphosate, weedkillers, and other weed control methods

While in most cases “weed control” is not required for harmful plants, there may be some situations such as growth of invasive plants, damage to surfaces or nettles/thistles in play areas, where some form of intervention is required to prevent costly repairs or foreseeable injuries. In these cases, you can employ either chemical or manual interventions to remove plant.

Manual interventions remove the risk of accidental spraying and contamination of food-stuffs, and don’t carry the potential risk to pupils, wildlife (specifically pollinators reliant on wildflower crops and aquatic life) that may be present in the area during application or using the area afterwards. They can also be much more targeted, dealing with individual plants or varieties rather than whole areas. The Royal Horticultural Society provide extensive guidance on [non-chemical control of weeds](#).

Chemical weed control will usually involve the application of a spray or gel to the desired area. It should always be done in line with manufacturer’s instructions, and will require the area of application to be taken out of use for a prescribed period of time. They will also usually have restrictions on the number of annual applications on any one area. Chemical applications fall in to two categories, selective and non-selective, and both will require a COSHH assessment to be completed prior to use, and records of applications should be kept.

Selective weed killers are designed to only work on specific plants, with a variety of unique formulations available to tackle specific types of weeds while avoiding grasses. They work by stimulating excessive growth in the target plant, so much so that it’s no longer able to sustain its rate of growth. The plant will then die. These are effective when you want to treat weeds growing in lawns or fields.

Glyphosate is an example of a non-selective, or total, systemic herbicide / weedkiller. This means that it will kill virtually any plant to which it is applied, and if not applied carefully can kill off lawn and the plants you want to keep. It is the active substance in many herbicides (weed killers) and is widely used around the world. Non-selective weedkillers work by blocking the plant’s production of protein which it requires to survive. Non-selective weedkillers are effective where hardy weeds are growing through hardstanding or brickwork.

Under the Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012, a person who uses, or causes or permits an individual to use, a plant protection product must ensure:

- all reasonable precautions are taken to protect human health and the environment
- the application of the plant protection product is confined to the crop, land, produce, buildings, contents of buildings, materials or other areas intended to be treated
- when the product is used in places of heightened concern (which includes, among others, areas used by the public or vulnerable groups, areas in the close vicinity of healthcare facilities, and on or along roads, railway lines, very permeable surfaces, or other infrastructure close to surface water or groundwater) that the amount used and the frequency of use are as low as reasonably practicable.

### **Identification tools**

A number of apps and online tools are available that identify plants and fungus, and can be used to assist the school when risk assessing suspect plants on the school site. Apps should always be used with caution – you should not rely on an identification app to tell you a plant is safe, especially if it indicated the plant could be a number of different species; but it can be used to indicate additional control measures that might need to be in place for higher risk plants. Examples include:

- [iNaturalist](#)
- [Pl@ntnet](#)

### **Hazardous plants list**

The table below contains a more extensive list of plants that have been known to cause injury, either by contact or after being eaten. It mirrors the HTA (Horticultural Trades Association) guidelines. All these plants are safe to grow provided they are treated with respect. Remember, they are ornamental plants, often very beautiful - they are not meant to be eaten. Avoid contamination by wearing gloves and covering your skin. This is not an exhaustive list. Additional information on toxicity and irritation can be found on plants listed in our Find a Plant tool so if a specific plant you wish to check isn't listed below, do try searching there as well. Plants are listed in categories, A to C, with A being the most toxic and C the least.

Category A		
<a href="#">Toxicodendron (poison ivy)</a>	Caution skin allergen causing severe dermatitis; poisonous if eaten	

Category B		
<a href="#">Aconitum (monkshood)</a>	Toxic if eaten. Avoid skin contact	
<a href="#">Allium sativum</a>	Skin irritant/allergen	
<a href="#">Alocasia (taro)</a>	Toxic if eaten; skin/eye irritant	
<a href="#">Anticlea (Zigadenus some species)</a>	Toxic if eaten	
<a href="#">Aristolochia (Dutchman's pipe)</a>	Toxic if eaten	
<a href="#">Arum (cuckoo-pint, lords-and-ladies)</a>	Toxic if eaten; skin & eye irritant	
<a href="#">Asarum</a>	Toxic if eaten	
<a href="#">Atropa (deadly nightshade)</a>	Toxic if eaten; skin irritant	
<a href="#">Brugmansia (angel's trumpet)</a>	Toxic if eaten; skin irritant; avoid eye contact	
<a href="#">Brunfelsia (yesterday, today and tomorrow)</a>	Harmful if eaten	
<a href="#">Colchicum (autumn crocus)</a>	Toxic if eaten	
<a href="#">Convallaria majalis (lily-of-the-valley)</a>	Toxic if eaten	
Cuckoo-pint	See Arum	

<a href="#">Curcubita</a>	Ornamental varieties. Toxic if eaten; fruit intended for decoration only
<a href="#">Cycas</a>	Harmful if eaten; skin irritant
<a href="#">Daphne (mezereon, spurge laurel)</a>	Toxic if eaten; skin irritant
<a href="#">Datura (thornapple)</a>	Toxic if eaten; skin irritant; avoid eye contact
Deadly nightshade	See Atropa
<a href="#">Dictamnus (burning bush)</a>	Toxic to skin with sunlight
<a href="#">Dieffenbachia (dumb cane, leopard lily)</a>	Toxic if eaten; skin/eye irritant
<a href="#">Dioscorea (syn. Tamus)</a>	Toxic if eaten; skin irritant
<a href="#">Digitalis (foxglove)</a>	Toxic if eaten
Dumb cane	See Dieffenbachia
Euphorbia (spurge, poinsettia)	Irritant to skin/eye; harmful if eaten
Foxglove	See Digitalis
German primula	See Primula obconica
<a href="#">Ginkgo biloba</a>	Seeds harmful if eaten
<a href="#">Gloriosa superba (glory lily)</a>	Toxic if eaten
Hemlock water-dropwort	See Oenanthe
<a href="#">Heracleum mantegazzianum (giant hogweed)</a>	Toxic to skin with sunlight

<a href="#"><u>Heracleum sphondylium (hogweed, common hogweed) and other Heracleum spp</u></a>	Toxic to skin with sunlight
Hogweed	See Heracleum
<a href="#"><u>Humulus lupulus</u></a>	Skin irritant/allergen
<a href="#"><u>Hyoscyamus (henbane)</u></a>	Toxic if eaten
<a href="#"><u>Lagenaria (bottle gourd, calabash)</u></a>	Toxic if eaten; fruit intended for decoration only
Lily-of-the-valley	See Convallaria majalis
Lords-and-ladies	See Arum
<a href="#"><u>Lupinus (lupin)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten
Mezereon	See Daphne
Monkshood	See Aconitum
<a href="#"><u>Nerium oleander (oleander)</u></a>	Toxic if eaten; smoke from burning is harmful
Oenanthe crocata, O. aquatica, O. phellandrium (hemlock water-dropwort, water dropwort)	Toxic if eaten
<a href="#"><u>Ornithogalum (chincherinchee, star-of-Bethlehem)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten
<a href="#"><u>Poinsettia</u></a>	See Euphorbia
<a href="#"><u>Phytolacca (pokeweed)</u></a>	Toxic if eaten
Pokeweed	See Phytolacca

<a href="#"><u>Polygonatum (Solomon's seal)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten
<a href="#"><u>Primula obconica (except primin-free cultivars) (German primula)</u></a> , and <i>P. auricula</i>	Skin irritant
<a href="#"><u>Ricinus communis (castor oil plant)</u></a>	Toxic if eaten
<a href="#"><u>Ruta (rue)</u></a>	Toxic to skin with sunlight
Solomon's seal	See polygonatum
Spurge laurel	See <i>Daphne</i>
Star-of-Bethlehem -	See <i>Ornithogalum</i>
Tamus	See <i>Dioscorea</i>
<a href="#"><u>Taxus (yew)</u></a>	Toxic if eaten
<a href="#"><u>Thornapple</u></a>	See <i>Datura</i>
<a href="#"><u>Veratrum (false hellebore)</u></a>	Toxic if eaten
Water-dropwort -	See <i>Oenanthe</i>
Yesterday, today and tomorrow	See <i>Brunfelsia</i>
<a href="#"><u>Yew</u></a>	See <i>taxus</i>

Category C	
<a href="#">Acokanthera (bushman's poison)</a>	Harmful if eaten
<a href="#">Actaea (baneberry)</a>	Harmful if eaten
<a href="#">Adenium</a>	Harmful if eaten
<a href="#">Aesculus (horse chestnut)</a>	Harmful if eaten
<a href="#">Agapanthus (African lily)</a>	Harmful if eaten
<a href="#">Agave</a>	Skin irritant
<a href="#">Aglaonema (Chinese evergreen)</a>	Harmful if eaten; skin/eye irritant
<a href="#">Agrostemma githago (corncockle)</a>	Harmful if eaten
<a href="#">Ailanthus (tree of heaven)</a>	Skin irritant
<a href="#">Allamanda</a>	Harmful if eaten; skin/eye irritant
<a href="#">Aloe</a>	Harmful if eaten
<a href="#">Alstroemeria (Peruvian lily)</a>	Skin allergen
<a href="#">Amaryllis</a>	See Hippeastrum
<a href="#">Angel's trumpet</a>	See Brugmansia
Angel's wings	See Caladium
<a href="#">Anthriscus sylvestris (cow parsley)</a>	Harmful to skin with sunlight

<a href="#"><u>Anthurium (flamingo flower)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten; skin/eye irritant
<a href="#"><u>Apium graveolens (celery/celeriac)</u></a>	Harmful to skin with sunlight
<a href="#"><u>Arachis hypogaea</u></a>	(Seed packets only) seeds from this packet are not edible
<a href="#"><u>Arisaema (cobra-lily) -</u></a>	Harmful if eaten; skin/eye irritant
<a href="#"><u>Arisarum (mouse plant)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten; skin/eye irritant
Arrowhead vine	See Syngonium
<a href="#"><u>Asclepias</u></a>	Harmful if eaten
<a href="#"><u>Asparagus (asparagus fern)</u></a>	Skin allergen; fruits harmful if eaten, poisonous
Autumn crocus	See colchicum
Azalea	See Rhododendron
Baneberry	See Actaea
Belladonna lily	See Amaryllis belladonna
Bluebell	See Hyacinthoides
Brassica nigra, B. juncea (black mustard, brown mustard)	Skin irritant/allergen
<a href="#"><u>Bryonia dioica (white byrony)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten
Buckthorn	See Rhamnus
Bunny ears cactus	See Opuntia

Burning bush	See <i>Dictamnus</i>
Bushman's poison	See <i>Acokanthera</i>
<a href="#"><u>Caladium (angel's wings)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten; skin/eye irritant
Calico bush	See <i>Kalmia</i>
<a href="#"><u>Calla lily</u></a>	See <i>Zantedeschia</i>
Calla palustris (water arum)	Harmful if eaten; skin/eye irritant
<a href="#"><u>Calycanthus, Carolina allspice</u></a>	Harmful if eaten
<a href="#"><u>Capsicum annum (ornamental pepper cultivars)</u></a>	Irritant if eaten; skin/eye irritant, poisonous
Castor oil plant	See <i>Ricinus communis</i>
Celandine, greater	See <i>Chelidonium majus</i>
<a href="#"><u>Chelidonium majus (greater celandine)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten; skin/eye irritant
Cherry laurel	See <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>
Chincherinchee	See <i>Ornithogalum</i>
Christmas cherry	See <i>Solanum pseudocapsicum</i>
<a href="#"><u>Chrysanthemum</u></a>	Skin allergen
<a href="#"><u>Citrus (lemon, lime, bergamot orange)</u></a>	Fruit harmful to skin in sunlight
<a href="#"><u>Clematis (old man's beard)</u></a>	Skin irritant

Cobra-lily -	See Arisaema
<a href="#"><u>Colocasia esculenta (dasheen, eddo, taro)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten; skin/eye irritant
Comfrey, Russian comfrey	See Symphytum
Corncockle	See Agrostemma githago
<a href="#"><u>Cucurbita</u></a>	Edible varieties (courgette, pumpkin, squash), if crop is bitter, do not eat
<a href="#"><u>Cymbidium</u></a>	Skin allergen
<a href="#"><u>Cypripedium (lady's slipper orchid)</u></a>	Skin allergen
<a href="#"><u>Cytisus</u></a>	(Broom), harmful if eaten
Daffodil	See Narcissus
Dasheen	See Colocasia esculenta
<a href="#"><u>Delphinium including Consolida (larkspur)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten
Devil's ivy	See Epipremnum
<a href="#"><u>Dianthus (carnation, sweet William)</u></a>	Skin allergen
<a href="#"><u>Dracunculus (dragon arum)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten; skin & eye irritant
<a href="#"><u>Echium</u></a>	Skin irritant
Elder	See Sambucus
<a href="#"><u>Epipremnum (devil's ivy)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten; skin & eye irritant

<a href="#"><u>Euonymus (spindle tree)</u></a>	Somewhat poisonous
<a href="#"><u>Ficus benjamina (weeping fig)</u></a>	May cause skin allergen, harmful if eaten
<a href="#"><u>Ficus carica (fig)</u></a>	Harmful to skin with sunlight
Fig	See Ficus
<a href="#"><u>Frangula (alder buckthorn)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten
<a href="#"><u>Fremontodendron</u></a>	Skin/eye irritant
<a href="#"><u>Galanthus (snowdrop)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten
<a href="#"><u>Gelsemium (false jasmine)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten
Goosefoot vine	See Syngonium
<a href="#"><u>Grevillea</u></a>	Skin irritant/allergen
<a href="#"><u>Hedera (ivy)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten; skin irritant/allergen
<a href="#"><u>Helleborus (Christmas rose, Lenten rose)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten; skin irritant
<a href="#"><u>Hippeastrum (amaryllis)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten
Horse chestnut	See Aesculus
<a href="#"><u>Hyacinthoides (bluebell)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten
<a href="#"><u>Hyacinthus (hyacinth)</u></a>	Skin irritant
<a href="#"><u>Hydrangea</u></a>	Skin allergen

<a href="#">Ipomoea (morning glory)</a>	Harmful if eaten
<a href="#">Iris</a>	Harmful if eaten
Ivy	See <i>Hedera</i>
<a href="#">Juniperus communis (juniper)</a>	Skin allergen
<a href="#">Juniperus except J. communis</a>	Harmful if eaten, skin allergen
<a href="#">Kalmia (calico bush)</a>	Harmful if eaten
Lenten rose	See <i>Helleborus</i>
<a href="#">Laburnum</a>	Harmful if eaten
<a href="#">Lagenaria (bottle gourd) (syn. <i>Cucurbita lagenaria</i>), edible varieties</a>	If crop is bitter, don't eat
<a href="#">Lantana</a>	Harmful if eaten
Larkspur	See <i>Delphinium</i>
<a href="#">Lathyrus (except L. sativus)</a>	Pods and seeds not edible
Laurel	See <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>
Leyland cypress	See <i>xCupressocyparis leylandii</i>
<a href="#">Ligustrum (privet)</a>	Harmful if eaten
<a href="#">Lithotoma axillaris (syn. <i>Isotoma axillaris</i>, <i>Laurentia axillaris</i>)</a>	Skin irritant
<a href="#">Lobelia (except bedding lobelia, L. erinus)</a>	Harmful if eaten, skin irritant

<a href="#"><u>Lysichiton (skunk cabbage)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten, skin & eye irritant
Marvel of Peru	See <i>Mirabilis</i>
<a href="#"><u>Mentha pulegium (pennyroyal)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten
<a href="#"><u>Mirabilis (marvel of Peru, four o'clock plant)</u></a>	Poisonous; skin irritant
<a href="#"><u>Monstera deliciosa (Swiss cheese plant)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten, skin & eye irritant
Morning glory	See <i>Ipomoea</i>
<a href="#"><u>Nandina domestica (sacred bamboo)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten
<a href="#"><u>Narcissus (daffodil)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten; skin irritant
<a href="#"><u>Nicotiana (tobacco)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten; avoid skin contact
Opium poppy	See <i>Papaver somniferum</i>
<a href="#"><u>Opuntia (prickly pear, bunny ears)</u></a>	Skin and eye irritant
Pagoda tree	See <i>Sophora</i>
<a href="#"><u>Papaver somniferum (opium poppy)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten
Parsnip	See <i>Pastinaca sativa</i>
<a href="#"><u>Parthenocissus (Virginia creeper, Boston ivy)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten; skin irritant
<a href="#"><u>Pastinaca sativa (parsnip)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten; skin irritant
Peace lily	See <i>Spathiphyllum</i>

Pepper, ornamental	See <i>Capsicum annum</i>
Peruvian lily	See <i>Alstroemeria</i>
<u>Phacelia</u>	Skin allergen
<u>Phaseolus</u> (navy beans, kidney beans, French bean, climbing bean, runner bean)	Raw pods/beans harmful if eaten raw
<u>Philodendron</u>	Harmful if eaten; skin/eye irritant/allergen
<u>Physalis alkekengi</u> (Chinese lantern)	Harmful if eaten, except ripe fruit
<u>Pieris</u>	Harmful if eaten
<u>Pistia stratiotes</u> (water lettuce)	Harmful if eaten; skin/eye irritant
<u>Plumeria</u> (frangipani)	Harmful if eaten; skin/eye irritant
<u>Plumbago</u> (leadwort)	Skin irritant
Privet	See <i>Ligustrum</i>
<u>Polyscias</u>	Skin irritant
Portugal laurel	See <i>Prunus lusitanica</i>
<u>Primula auricula</u>	Skin allergen
<u>Prunus laurocerasus</u> , <i>P. lusitanica</i> (cherry laurel, Portugal laurel) varieties bearing ornamental fruit	Harmful if eaten
<u>Ranunculus</u> (buttercup, crowfoot, celandine, spearfoot, beakwort)	Harmful if eaten; skin irritant

<u>Rhamnus including Frangula (alder buckthorn, buckthorn) – harmful if eaten</u>	
<u>Rheum × hybridum (rhubarb)</u>	Harmful if eaten, except cooked leaf stalks
<u>Rheum except R. x hybridum (Chinese rhubarb)</u>	Harmful if eaten
<u>Rhododendron, including Ledum, Azalea, Menziesia</u>	Harmful if eaten
<u>Robinia pseudoacacia (locust tree)</u>	Harmful if eaten; skin irritant
<u>Rumex (dock/sorrel)</u>	Harmful if eaten in large amounts
<u>Salvia rosmarinus (rosemary)</u>	Skin allergen
<u>Sambucus except S. nigra (elder)</u>	Harmful if eaten; fruit/flowers edible if cooked
<u>Sauvormatum (voodoo lily)</u>	Harmful if eaten; skin/eye irritant
<u>Schefflera (Umbrella tree)</u>	Skin irritant
<u>Scilla</u>	Harmful if eaten
Skunk cabbage	See Lysichiton
<u>Sinapis alba (white mustard)</u>	Skin irritant/allergen
Snowberry	See Symphoricarpos
<u>Solanum tuberosum (potato)</u>	Harmful if eaten, except potato crop
<u>Solanum, ornamental species (including S. pseudocapsicum (syn. S. capsicastrum) and S. dulcamara)</u>	Harmful if eaten

<a href="#"><u>Sophora (pagoda tree)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten
Spanish broom	See <i>Spartium junceum</i>
<a href="#"><u>Spartium junceum (Spanish broom)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten
<a href="#"><u>Spathiphyllum (peace lily)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten, skin & eye irritant
Spindle tree	See <i>Euonymus</i>
Swiss cheese plant	See <i>Monstera deliciosa</i>
<a href="#"><u>Symporicarpos (snowberry)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten
<a href="#"><u>Symphytum (comfrey, Russian comfrey)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten repeatedly
<a href="#"><u>Syngonium (arrowhead vine, goosefoot vine)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten; skin/eye irritant
<a href="#"><u>Tagetes minuta</u></a>	(African marigold, French marigold), skin irritant/allergen
Taro	See <i>Alocasia, Colocasia</i>
<a href="#"><u>Teucrium (germander)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten
<a href="#"><u>Thermopsis (false lupin)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten
<a href="#"><u>Thuja (western red cedar)</u></a>	Harmful if eaten; skin allergen
Tobacco	See <i>Nicotiana</i>
<a href="#"><u>Tradescantia</u></a>	Skin allergen
<a href="#"><u>Tropaeolum majus (nasturtium)</u></a>	Skin allergen

Tulip	See <i>Tulipa</i>
<a href="#"><i>Tulipa</i> (tulip)</a>	Harmful if eaten; skin allergen
Umbrella tree	See <i>Schefflera</i>
<a href="#"><i>Urtica</i> (nettle)</a>	Skin irritant
<a href="#"><i>Viscum album</i> (mistletoe)</a>	Harmful if eaten
Winter cherry	See <i>Solanum pseudocapsicum</i>
Woody nightshade	See <i>Solanum</i>
<a href="#"><i>xCuprocyparis leylandii</i> (Leyland cypress)</a>	Skin allergen
<a href="#"><i>Yucca</i></a>	Skin allergen
Zamia	See <i>Zamioculcas</i>
<a href="#"><i>Zamioculcas</i></a>	Harmful if eaten, skin/eye allergen/irritant
Zantedeschia (calla lily)	Harmful if eaten; skin & eye irritant

Reviewed: September 2025

Approved by: **RAISE-AP** Educational Directors, September 2025

Next Review Date: September 2027