

INFORMATION

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POTENTIALLY HARMFUL PLANTS

As a result of investigation undertaken by the HTA at the request of the HTA Retail Committee, the following list of plants has been put together as those reported to be potentially toxic. Plants are labelled in three categories - A, B and C - according to the severity of the hazard. Most plants labelled under the code are perfectly safe to purchase (excepting those under category A) as long as the warnings are heeded. However, they should not be placed or planted where small children are likely to brush against or ingest them. If a plant is not on this list, it does not mean that it is therefore safe to eat. It has, however been reported that no-one in Britain has died by accidentally eating a piece of garden plant in the past 20 years.



Category A - Latin Name	Common Name	Warning
Rhus diversiloba, radicans, rydbergii striata, succedanea, toxicarum, verniciflua and vernix	Poison Oak	CAUTION poisonous if eaten. Skin contact commonly causes severe blistering dermatitis

Category B - Latin Name	Common Name	Warning
Aconitum	Monkshood	CAUTION toxic if eaten/harmful via skin
Arum	Cuckoo Pint	CAUTION toxic if eaten/skin and eye irritant
Atropa	Belladonna	CAUTION toxic if eaten
Brugmansia	Angel's Trumpets	CAUTION toxic if eaten
Colchicum	Autumn Crocus	CAUTION toxic if eaten
Convallaria	Lily of the Valley	CAUTION toxic if eaten
Coriaria	Coriaria	CAUTION toxic if eaten
Daphne	Mezereon	CAUTION toxic if eaten/skin irritant
Datura	Stinkweed	CAUTION toxic if eaten
Dieffenbachia	Dumb Cane	CAUTION toxic if eaten/skin and eye irritant
Digitalis	Foxglove	CAUTION toxic if eaten
Euphorbia (except E.pulcherrima)	Spurge	CAUTION toxic if eaten/skin and eye irritant
Gloriosa superba	Flame Lily	CAUTION toxic if eaten
Heracleum	Hogweed	CAUTION severely toxic to skin with sunlight
Hyoscyamus	Henbane	CAUTION toxic if eaten
Laburnocytisus adamii	Laburnocytisus	CAUTION toxic if eaten
Laburnum	Golden Chain	CAUTION toxic if eaten
Lantana	Shrub Verbena	CAUTION toxic if eaten
Mandragora	Mandrake	CAUTION toxic if eaten
Nerium oleander	Oleander	CAUTION toxic if eaten
Oenanthe crocata, aquatica and phellandrium	Dead Man's Fingers	CAUTION toxic if eaten
Phytolacca	Inkberry	CAUTION toxic if eaten
Primula obconica	Primula	CAUTION may cause skin allergy
Ricinus communis	Castor Oil Plant	CAUTION toxic if eaten
Ruta	Rue	CAUTION severely toxic to skin with sunlight
Scopolia	Scopolia	CAUTION toxic if eaten
Solandra	Chalice Vine	CAUTION toxic if eaten
Solanum dulcamara	Woody Nightshade	CAUTION toxic if eaten
Sophora	Pagoda Tree	CAUTION toxic if eaten
Taxus	Yew	CAUTION toxic if eaten
Thevetia	Yellow Oleander	CAUTION toxic if eaten/skin irritant
Veratrum	Hellebore	CAUTION toxic if eaten
Zigadenus	Death Camas	CAUTION toxic if eaten

Category C - Latin Name	Common Name	Warning
Acalypha	Cat's Tail	Harmful if eaten/skin and eye irritant
Acokanthera	Poison Bush	Harmful if eaten
Actaea section Actaea	Bane Berry	Harmful if eaten/skin irritant
Adenium	Desert Rose	Harmful if eaten
Aesculus	Horse Chestnut	Harmful if eaten
Aglaonema	Chinese Evergreens	Harmful if eaten/skin and eye irritant
Agrostemma githago	Corn Cockle	Harmful if eaten
Allamanda	Golden Trumpet	Harmful if eaten/skin and eye irritant
Alocasia	Giant Elephant's Ear	Harmful if eaten/skin and eye irritant

Potentially Harmful Plants continued...

Category C - Latin Name	Common Name	Warning
Aloe	Aloe	Harmful if eaten
Alstromeria	Alstromeria	May cause skin allergy
Amaryllis belladonna	Belladonna	Harmful if eaten
Anthurium	Flamingo Flower	Harmful if eaten/skin and eye irritant
Apocynum	Dogbane	Harmful if eaten
Arisaema	Cobra Lily	Harmful if eaten/skin and eye irritant
Asparagus except A.officinalis	Asparagus Fern	May cause skin allergy/fruits harmful if eaten
Brunfelsia	Lady of the Night	Harmful if eaten
Caladium	Angel's Wings	Harmful if eaten/skin and eye irritant
Calla palustris	Water Arum	Harmful if eaten/skin and eye irritant
Capsicum annuum (ornamental cultivars)	Chilli Pepper	Harmful if eaten/skin and eye irritant
Chelidonium majus	Greater Celandine	Harmful if eaten/skin and eye irritant
Chrysanthemum	Chrysanthemum	May cause skin allergy
Colocasia esculenta	Cocoyam	Harmful if eaten/skin and eye irritant
Cupressocyparis leylandii	Leyland Cypress	May cause skin allergy
Delphinium	Larkspur	Harmful if eaten
Dictamnus albus	Burning Bush	Skin irritant with sunlight
Dracunculus	Dragon Arum	Harmful if eaten/skin and eye irritant
Echium	Viper's Bugloss	Skin irritant
Epipremnum	Devil's Ivy	Harmful if eaten/skin and eye irritant
Euonymus	Spindle Tree	Harmful if eaten
Ficus benjamina	Weeping Fig	May cause skin allergy
Ficus carica	Common Fig	Skin irritant with sunlight
Fremontodendron	California Beauty	Skin and eye irritant
Gaultheria section Pernettya	Prickly Heath	Harmful if eaten
Gelsemium	False Jasmine	Harmful if eaten
Hedera	Ivy	Harmful if eaten/may cause skin allergy
Helleborus	Christmas Rose	Harmful if eaten/skin irritant
Hippeastrum	Amaryllis	Harmful if eaten
Homeria	Homeria	Harmful if eaten
Hyacinthoides	Bluebell	Harmful if eaten
Hyacinthus	Common Hyacinth	Harmful if eaten/skin irritant
Hypericum perforatum	St John's Wort	Harmful if eaten
Ipomoea	Morning Glory	Harmful if eaten
Iris	Yellow Iris	Harmful if eaten
Kalmia	Calico Bush	Harmful if eaten
Lagenaria	Bottle Gourd	Harmful if eaten
Ligustrum	Garden Privet	Harmful if eaten
Lobelia (except L.erinus)	Lobelia	Harmful if eaten
Lupinus	Lupin	Harmful if eaten
Lysichiton	Skunk Cabbage	Harmful if eaten/skin and eye irritant
Mirabilis	Marvel of Peru	Harmful if eaten/skin irritant
Monstera deliciosa	Cheese Plant	Harmful if eaten/skin and eye irritant
Narcissus	Daffodil	Harmful if eaten/skin irritant
Nicotiana	Tobacco	Harmful if eaten
Opuntia microdasys	Bunny Ears	Skin irritant
Ornithogalum	Star of Bethlehem	Harmful if eaten
Papavar somniferum	Poppy	Harmful if eaten
Passiflora caerulea	Passion Flower	Harmful if eaten
Pedilanthus	Slipper Cactus	Harmful if eaten/skin and eye irritant
Philodendron	Philodendron	Harmful if eaten/skin and eye irritant
Podophyllum	May Apple	Harmful if eaten
Polygonatum	Solomon's Seal	Harmful if eaten
Polyscias	Dinner Plate Aralia	Harmful if eaten/skin and eye irritant
Prunus laurocerasus and lusitanica	Cherry	Seed kernels harmful if eaten
Rhamnus	Buckthorn	Harmful if eaten
Rhaphidophora	Shingle Plant	Harmful if eaten/skin and eye irritant
Robinia pseudoacacia	Acacia	Harmful if eaten
Sambucus (except S nigra)	Elder	Harmful if eaten
Schefflera	Umbrella Plant	May cause skin allergy
Scilla	Scilla	Harmful if eaten
Solanum (cultivated ornamental species except S.dulcamara)	Solanum	Harmful if eaten
Solanum pseudocapsicum	Christmas Cherry	Harmful if eaten
Spartium junceum	Spanish Broom	Harmful if eaten
Spathiphyllum	Peace Lily	Harmful if eaten/skin and eye irritant
Symphoricarpos	Snowberry	Harmful if eaten
Symphytum	Comfrey	Harmful if eaten
Syngonium	Arrowhead Vine	Harmful if eaten/skin and eye irritant
Tabernaemontana	Cape Jasmine	Harmful if eaten
Tulipa	Tulip	Harmful if eaten/may cause skin allergy
Vitex	Chaste Tree	Skin irritant
Wisteria	Wisteria	Harmful if eaten
Xanthosoma	Blue Taro	Harmful if eaten/skin and eye irritant
Zantedeschia	Arum Lily	Harmful if eaten/skin and eye irritant