

## Poisonous Plants and Creatures

Gayle Whitworth

### Poisonous Plants

<u>Plant Name</u>	<u>Source of Irritant</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>
Air Potato	Tubers (if eaten raw)	Gastrointestinal bleeding
Allamanda	All parts (especially seeds)	Fever, swollen lips, nausea, diarrhea, skin irritant
Angel's Trumpet	All parts (especially seeds)	Hallucinations, dry mouth, muscle weakness, increased blood pressure and pulse, fever, dilated pupils, paralysis
Aralia	Leaves	Flushed face, fever, peculiar dilated pupils, inability to stand, dryness of mouth
Balsam Pear	Orange fruit and seeds	Vomiting and purging
Barbados Nut	Seeds	Violent purging
Brazilian Pepper	Red berries, sap, and leaves	Vomiting
Carolina Yellow Jessamine	Flowers, leaves, and roots	Respiratory arrest
Castor-bean	Seeds	Can cause death
Crape-jasmine	Roots and bark	Violent cardiac poisons and other paralytic properties
Coontie	Seeds and roots	Severe vomiting and abdominal pain
Devil's Trumpet	All parts (especially seeds)	Flushed skin, headaches, hallucinations, convulsions, and even coma
Dracaena	Bark	Dangerous to pets (especially cats); causes liver failure
Dumbcane	Sap and plant material	Swelling of the throat
Elderberry	All parts	Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea in children
Elephant Ears	Rhizome	Can cause death

Fairy Ring	Mushroom is poisonous, raw or cooked	Can cause sickness in adults and death in children
Gloriosa Lily	All parts (especially the tubers)	Death can occur within four hours
Hydrangea	Leaves and buds	Nausea, vomiting and diarrhea
King Sago	Seeds	Vomiting, liver & kidney damage, paralysis, and death
Lantana	All parts (especially the leaves and green berries)	Can be fatal to children and are poisonous to pets
Oleander	All parts (including the smoke)	Can cause death in adults & children; children should not handle; harmful to animals
Oyster Plant	Leaves and stems	Burning and inflammation to the mouth, throat, and stomach
Pencil Cactus	Sap and seeds	Vomiting, diarrhea, delirium, shock and death
Poison Ivy	Berries and leaves	Ingestion can cause vomiting and death
Pokeweed	All parts (especially berries and roots)	Vomiting, spasms, severe convulsions which can result in death
Pothos	Sap	Burning and inflammation of the mouth and throat
Queen Sago	Seeds	Vomiting, liver & kidney damage, paralysis; can be fatal
Rosary Pea	Seeds	Vomiting, severe diarrhea, weakness, fatal to children, adults and pets
Yellow Oleander	All parts (if eaten)	Severe gastroenteritis, diarrhea, abdominal pain, sweating and weakness

## Irritant Plants

<u>Plant Name</u>	<u>Source of Irritant</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>
Aralia	Foliage	Itching rashes with sores and swelling
Brazilian Pepper	Pollen and/or sap	Fine rash, respiratory irritation, headache and sneezing
Century Plant	Sap	Rash, burning and itching of the skin and eye damage
Crown-of-Thorns	Sap	Can irritate the skin in some

Mango	All parts	Small number of people suffer skin irritation by contact with the plant or eating of the fruit
Melaleuca	Pollen and/or bark	Respiratory irritation, sneezing, facial burning, and a rash
Night Blooming Jessamine	Fragrance	Headaches, nausea, dizziness, and sneezing
Pencil Cactus	Sap	Skin irritation, severe burning if in the eye
Poison Ivy	Sap and/or smoke from burnt plant	Rash and blisters
Pothos	Sap	Burning and blistering of the skin and severe eye irritation
Purple Queen	Sap	Itching rash and eye irritation
Queen Sago	Pollen from male cones	Respiratory irritant to some
Rhoeo	Sap	Itching and burning rash and respiratory difficulty
Rue	Leaves	Blistering rash; in severe cases, can cause permanent scarring
Stinging Nettle	Stinging hairs	Inflammation and a red rash
Stinkhorn	Horrible odor	Can be fatal to animals

## Spitting Creatures

<u>Pest Name</u>	<u>Source of Irritant</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>
Blister Beetle	Adult beetles release a fluid	Blisters on human skin
Twostriped Walkingstick	Squirts a strong smelling defensive spray	Painfully irritating to the eyes and mucous membranes

## Stinging Creatures

<u>Pest Name</u>	<u>Source of Irritant</u>	<u>Helpful Information</u>
Bald-faced Hornet	Stinger	Capable of stinging many times
Honey Bee	Stinger	When stung, remove stinger immediately
Paper Wasp	Stinger	Capable of stinging many times
Yellow Jacket	Stinger	Build nests underground, capable of stinging many times
Hag Caterpillar	Stinging hairs	Light to dark brown; not common

Io Moth Caterpillar	Stinging tubers	Pale green with yellow and red; seen on ixora and roses
Puss Caterpillar	Stiff spines	Convex, stout body almost 1", covered with gray to brown hairs; prefer oaks and citrus
Saddleback Caterpillar	Stinging hairs	Brown with green back and sides, bordered by white, oval shaped center showing brown; prefer hibiscus and palms
Imported Fire Ant	Stinger	Can cause pus filled sores
Slender Brown Scorpion	Stinger	Venom is a nerve toxin; swelling and soreness at site of sting
Velvet Ant	Large stinger	Not aggressive, but will sting if stepped on or trapped

## Venomous Biting Creatures

<u>Pests Name</u>	<u>Source of Irritant</u>	<u>Helpful Information</u>
Coral Snake	Venomous bite	Red and yellow are touching
Dusky Pygmy Rattlesnake	Venomous bite	Grayish in color with dark blotches on its back; highly aggressive
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	Venomous bite	Large diamond pattern on its back
Water Moccasin (a.k.a. Cottonmouth)	Venomous bite	Highly aggressive and venomous; found near water
Brown Recluse Spider	Venomous bite	Persons bitten do not feel pain for 2-3 hours, blistering and swelling
Brown Widow Spider	Venomous bite	Markings on back and hour glass on abdomen; venom is a neurotoxin
Red Widow Spider	Venomous bite	Black abdomen, red head, thorax and legs; red spots with yellow borders on "back"; lacks complete hourglass
Southern Black Widow Spider	Venomous bite	Glossy black with complete hourglass on underside of abdomen; bite feels like pin prick followed by swelling and two red marks

Adapted for print from *Poisonous & Irritant Plants, Bugs, Snakes, Etc.* presentation by Sally Scalera, Horticulture Agent, UF – Brevard County Extension.