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# *Poisonous Plants*

*An annotated reading list*

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White Snakeroot (*Eupatorium rugosum*)

Alber, John I. and Delores M. Alber. *Baby-safe houseplants and cut flowers*. Highland, IL, Genus Books, 1990.

- Advice to parents about toxic plants and children's safety.

Altmann, Horst. *Poisonous plants and animals*. London: Chatto & Windus, 1979.

- Over 100 full-color photographs highlight this pocket-guide volume, an aid in identifying poisonous plants encountered in Britain and Europe. The many different substances that can cause poisoning are explained and the symptoms described.

Blackwell, Will H. *Poisonous and medicinal plants*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ, Prentice Hall, 1990.

- An unusual combination of information on both medicinal and poisonous plants, written in a lively and fascinating fashion. The book covers the effects of plant toxicity on different organs of the body and the plants of greatest interest to modern medicine.

Creekmore, Hubert. *Daffodils are dangerous: the poisonous plants in your garden*. New York, Walker, 1966.

- Creekmore envisions an absolutely beautiful garden for us--one with Mountain Laurel and Rhododendron, Japanese Yew, English Ivy, Foxglove, and Bleeding Heart. And every plant in it is poisonous! A beautifully written book with exceptional line drawings.

Duke, James A. *CRC handbook of medicinal herbs*. Boca Raton, FL, CRC Press, 1985.

- This modern, definitive pharmacopoeia presents illustrations, folk medicine practice, chemistry, and toxicity of 365 nonwoody, temperate plant species.

Emboden, William. *Narcotic plants*. New York, MacMillan, 1972.

- A comprehensive study of psychoactive plants and their historical and anthropological importance, this book investigates the chemical and botanical aspects of both well-known and obscure hallucinogens, "sacred" mushrooms, stimulants, tranquilizers, and sedatives. Emboden also discusses the effects produced by certain narcotic plants.

Eschleman, Alan. *Poison plants*. Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1977.

- This is a great book for exotic facts and notions. What's the most poisonous plant in the United States? Water hemlock. Not only does every plant have a story, but the story is fascinating as well.

Fernald, Merritt Lyndon. *Edible wild plants of eastern North America*. New York, Harper, 1958.

- A classic 450-page book with a lengthy discussion on poisonous plants likely to be mistaken for edible species. There is a separate section covering mushrooms, seaweeds, and lichens.

Hardin, James W. and Jay M. Arena. *Human poisoning from native and cultivated plants*. 2nd edition. Durham, NC, Duke University Press, 1974.

- With clear photographs and accurate descriptions, this work provides a technical look at numerous plant species that have been associated with human poisoning. The authors indicate the plants' distributions as well as their poisonous properties.

Hill, Robert J. *Poisonous plants of Pennsylvania*. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Plant Industry, 1986.

- This state-produced work lists many of the more common poisonous plants and fungi found within our borders. Hill provides the reader with excellent drawings and descriptions. At under \$10.00 this is a real buy.

James, Wilma Roberts. *Know your poisonous plants: poisonous plants found in the field and garden*. Happy Camp, CA, Naturegraph, 1973.

- This field guide concentrates on plants likely to make their way into gardens and public parks and that cause skin rashes, illness, or death. The line drawings are big and clear.

Kingsbury, John M. *Poisonous plants of the United States and Canada*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ, Prentice Hall, 1964.

- Here, in one compact reference volume, is a thorough survey of the literature on poisonous plants and the toxicology of plant poisoning in people and animals. Some 700 species of plants are discussed and every plant known to have poisoned livestock or people is reviewed.

Lampe, Kenneth F and Mary Ann McCann. *AMA handbook of poisonous and injurious plants*. Chicago, American Medical Association, 1985.

- Dr. Lampe of the Division of Drugs and Technology of the AMA has written this handbook to guide physicians and other health care professionals, especially staff of poison control centers. More than half of the 432-page book consists of color photographs of the plants.

Lerner, Carol. *Dumb cane and daffodils: poisonous plants in the house and garden*. New York, Morrow, 1990.

● Emphasizing plants most likely to appeal to children because of color, fragrance, or overall beauty, this booklet should give comfort to plant-loving parents. Noting that garden catalogs rarely mention the toxic characteristics of even common plants, this book provides education through a highly readable and illustrative text.

Lewis, Walter H. and Memory P. F. Elvin-Lewis. *Medical botany: plants affecting man's health*. New York, John Wiley & Sons, 1977.

● An informative look at the facts and fictions surrounding plants and man, this is a great resource for information on medically important plants. This intriguing compendium will enlighten, entertain, and provide the reader with a healthier knowledge of plants.

Muenschler, Walter Conrad Leopold. *Poisonous plants of the United States*. Rev. ed. New York, Collier, 1975.

● Although a more botanical and scholarly treatment than most books on poisonous plants, this is a very interesting work with full-page illustrations. Originally published in 1939, it has gone through a number of editions and revisions, testament to its value as a reference guide.

Schmutz, Ervin M. and Lucretia Breazeale Hamilton. *Plants that poison: an illustrated guide to plants poisonous to man*. Flagstaff, AZ, Northland Publishing, 1979.

● This work includes native and introduced plants of house and garden. Schmutz tells where the plants are found and describes the poison symptoms and treatment.

Thomson, William A. R. and Richard Evans Schultes, eds. *Medicines from the earth: a guide to healing plants*. San Francisco, Harper and Row, 1983.

● This source is a well-illustrated reference for information on medicinal plants through the ages. The authors discuss the uses of healing plants, how they work, and techniques of preparing herbal remedies.

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