

Poisonous Flowers

Giant Hogweed



It lives in the rich, wet soil near ditches, streams, and farms, especially in the Northeast. It has umbrella-shaped groups of small white flowers, leaves with deep creases, and stems with white hairs and purple splotches. It grows as tall as 15 feet. Its sap can make your skin more sensitive to ultraviolet light, which could blister, burn, or scar it, sometimes permanently. It could even damage your vision.

Wild Parsnip



Coarse, saw-toothed leaves grow on hairy, grooved stems that are 2 to 5 feet tall. The yellow flowers grow in an umbrella pattern like other plants in the carrot family. When juice from crushed leaves, stalks, or flowers touches your skin, sunlight can cause a skin rash within a day or two.

Poison Hemlock



This plant looks like a wild carrot or an unusually big parsley plant. It has umbrella-like bunches of tiny white flowers and distinctive leaves. It might be poison hemlock if you see purple blotches on the stem, a ridged fruit, leaves that look similar to parsley, or if it grows especially big (3 to 7 feet tall). It can poison humans and livestock when eaten. You could also get sick if you absorb plant oils through your skin.

Foxglove



Its bell-shaped flowers are often bright purple but can be white, yellow, or pink. It blooms in the spring. It also has a fruit with lots of seeds, which kids sometimes eat. All parts of the flower are poisonous and can slow or disrupt your heart.

Bitter Nightshade



This woody perennial has a stem that grows through the year. It can reach up to 6 feet. Purple flowers in groups of three or more bloom around July or August. Kids are sometimes drawn to the roundish, juicy, glossy, red, poisonous berries. The poison (solanine) can give you headache, drowsiness, stomachache, vomiting, trembling, lowered temperature, dilated pupils, and diarrhea. If you think someone's eaten it, get them to a doctor right away.

Jimsonweed



This strong-smelling nightshade herb has thick stems that grow 4 feet tall, with leaves up to 3 inches long. Nectar from the white, trumpet-shaped flower could make you sick, along with the leaves, and even the seeds, which some people use to get high. It makes you nauseous, thirsty, and feverish, weakens your pulse, and raises your heart rate. You might even forget where you are or see things that aren't there.

Oleander



This tall shrub has long, leathery leaves that grow in groups of three. Bright clusters of flowers bloom at the ends of branches in colors that vary from red and pink to white. All parts of the plant are very poisonous. Just one leaf is enough to kill an adult. You may have serious stomach pain, diarrhea, vomiting, dilated pupils, dizziness, and breathing problems.

Azalea and Rhododendron



The leaves, nectar, and flowers of these bushes can poison you, though you'd need to eat a lot. It irritates the mouth and could make you nauseated enough to vomit. Kids may mistake it for honeysuckle and eat the nectar.

**collected from WebMD*