Poisonous and Other Injurious Plants of Ohio

Schaffner, John H.
130. Oxalis violacea L. Violet Wood-sorrel. A case is recorded of a boy being thrown into violent convulsions from eating a considerable quantity of the leaves. The leaves and bulbs are very commonly eaten by children in large quantities without apparent ill effects.

131. Linum usitatissimum L. Flax. Causes death to cattle, probably due to the prussic acid evolved from the plant when wilting.

132. Ailanthus glandulosa Desf. Tree-of-heaven. Has a disagreeable and somewhat poisonous emanation. Water contaminated by the leaves is poisonous. Cows will not eat grass near the young shoots.

133. Polygala senega L. Seneca Snakeroot. The roots are emetic.

134. Ricinus communis L. Castoroil Plant. Seeds contain a deadly poison. Poisonous to horses, sheep, etc.

135. Euphorbia corollata L. Flowering Spurge. Supposed to produce disagreeable honey. Poisonous to the skin of some persons.


137. Euphorbia lathyris L. Caper Spurge. The seeds are poisonous when eaten. The milky juice is emetic and produces eruptions on the skin.


139. Rhus vernix L. Poison Sumac. Swamp Sumac. (R. venenata DC.) The poison is in all parts of the plant. Poisonous to the skin of most persons.

140. Rhus radicans L. Poison Ivy. (R. toxicodendron L.) The leaves and stems are poisonous to the skin of most persons.

141. Celastrus scandens L. Climbing Bitter-sweet. Leaves poisonous to horses.

142. Aesculus glabra Willd. Ohio Buckeye. Leaves and young shoots and seeds poisonous to cattle.


144. Aesculus hippocastanum L. Horse-chestnut. The seeds are poisonous. Symptoms of poisoning have been produced by eating the green rind.
145. Impatiens biflora Walt. Spotted Touch-me-not. Leaves acrid and burning to the taste. The plant is emetic and suspected of being poisonous to stock.

146. Rhamnus cathartica L. Buckthorn. Ripe fruit injurious.


151. Chimaphila maculata (L.) Ph. Spotted Wintergreen. Supposed to be poisonous to sheep.

152. Monotropa uniflora L. Indian Pipe. Contains a poisonous principle.

153. Ledum groenlandicum Oedr. Labrador Tea. Is supposed to be poisonous.

154. Azalea nudiflora L. Pink Azalea. Supposed to produce poisonous honey.

155. Azalea viscosa L. White Azalea. Supposed to produce poisonous honey.

156. Azalea lutea L. Flame Azalea. Supposed to produce poisonous honey.


159. Kalmia latifolia L. Mountain Laurel. Calico-bush. All parts of the plant poisonous to cattle, sheep and other animals. The honey from the flowers is poisonous; also the flesh of game that has fed upon the leaves or berries.


161. Epigaea repens L. Trailing Arbutus. Supposed to be poisonous to stock.


163. Ligustrum vulgare L. Privet. Leaves and fruit poisonous to children; probably also to animals.

164. Menyanthes trifoliata L. Buckbean. The taste of the leaves is intensely bitter and somewhat nauseous.

165. Apocynum androsaemifolium L. Spreading Dogbane. Poisonous, although animals generally avoid it because of the acrid juice.

166. Apocynum cannabinum L. Indian Hemp.
167. Apocynum hypericifolium Ait. Clasping-leaved Dogbane. The above three plants are slightly poisonous.

168. Nerium oleander L. Oleander. Cultivated. Every part of this plant is dangerously poisonous. Leaves deadly poisonous to stock.

169. Asclepias tuberosa L. Pleurisy-root. Leaves supposed to be poisonous to stock.

170. Asclepias incarnata L. Swamp Milkweed. The root is emetic and cathartic.


173. Convolvulus sepium L. Hedge Bindweed. Supposed to be poisonous to swine.


177. Echium vulgare L. Viper’s Bugloss. Causes considerable itching if handled.

178. Glecoma hederacea L. Ground Ivy. Suspected of being poisonous to horses.

179. Hedeoma pulegioides (L.) Pers. American Peneroyal. A case of poisoning by oil of Hedeoma has been recorded.


181. Solanum nigrum L. Black Nightshade. The leaves and green berries are poisonous to calves, sheep, goats and swine. The green berries are also poisonous to man, but the writer has seen boys eating large quantities of the ripe berries without ill effects.


183. Solanum dulcamara L. Bittersweet. Berries poisonous; also other parts. Leaves supposed poisonous to stock.

184. Solanum tuberosum L. Potato. The green parts, fruit and green-colored tubers are poisonous; also white sprouts from mature potatoes. The poison is dissolved out by boiling.


186. Hyoscyamus niger L. Black Henbane. Narcotic. Poisonous to stock, and is said to poison hogs. One of the most poisonous plants in the United States. It is called henbane on account of seed being poisonous to chickens.
187. Datura stramonium L. Jimson-weed. All parts narcotic and poisonous, especially the seed. Children frequently poisoned by eating the seeds, and occasionally by sucking the flowers. Poisonous to cattle, when eaten in hay.
188. Datura tatula L. Purple Jimson-weed. Poisonous like the preceding.
189. Verbascum thapsus L. Common Mullen. Said to be injurious to the skin of some persons.
190. Digitalis purpurea L. Purple Foxglove. Poisonous to horses.
194. Catalpa catalpa (L.) Karst. Catalpa. The flowers are said to produce irritation of the skin.
196. Conium maculatum L. Poison Hemlock. The plant contains a virulent, narcotic poison. The whole plant, especially the seed, is very poisonous to man and animals.
197. Petroselnum petroselinum (L.) Karst. Parsley. The seeds are injurious to birds. A case of the poisoning of several parrots from eating of this plant has been reported.
198. Cicuta bulbifera L. Bulb-bearing Water Hemlock. Supposed to be very poisonous.
199. Cicuta maculata L. Water Hemlock. The whole plant is violently poisonous, both to man and animals. Has destroyed many human lives.
201. Aethusa cynapium L. Fool's Parsley. A fetid poisonous herb.
203. Pastinaca sativa L. Parsnip. Persons are often poisoned by handling the plant, which causes inflammation and vescication.
204. Heracleum lanatum Mx. Cow Parsnip. Supposed to be poisonous, although the crisp leaves are said to be very palatable. The West Coast Indians eat the plant as a relish.
205. Daucus carota L. Wild Carrot. Persons handling the plant are often poisoned, especially when the plant is wet with dew. Causes large blisters to form.

206. Cornus florida L. Flowering Dogwood. The berries are reputed to be poisonous.


209. Lobelia syphilitica L. Blue Lobelia.

210. Lobelia pulchella Mx. Downy Lobelia.

211. Lobelia spicata Lam. Pale Spiked Lobelia.

212. Lobelia leptostachys A. DC. Spiked Lobelia. All the above acrid and poisonous.


214. Lobelia kalmii L. Kalm's Lobelia.


216. Ambrosia artemisiaefolia L. Roman Ragweed. The pollen has an irritant action upon the mucous membranes; cause of hay fever.

217. Xanthium spinosum L. Spiny Clotbur. The seeds and probably the whole plant poisonous.

218. Xanthium strumarium L. European Cocklebur. Young seedlings and seeds probably poisonous to hogs.


221. Rudbeckia laciniata L. Tall Cone Flower. Supposed to be fatal to sheep and hogs.


223. Helianthus annuus L. Sneezeweed. Plant and also flowers poisonous to cattle, sheep and horses.


227. Artemisia absinthium L. Common Wormwood. The volatile oil of this plant is a violent, narcotic poison.

228. Arctium lappa L. Great Burdock. Produces an itching sensation to some persons.

229. Cichorium intybus L. Chicory. When fed in large quantities to dairy cattle it imparts a bitter flavor to the milk and butter.