

COMMON POISONOUS PLANTS OF HAWAII

Adapted from the Hawaii State Department of Health Pamphlet of the same name

Name	Leaves	Flowers	Seeds/Fruit	Poisonous Parts	Type/Remarks	Treatment
Apple of Sodom, Thorny Popolo, (<i>Popolo Kikania</i>)	Thorny leaves	Small 5-petaled blue flowers	Round, hard, pale yellow, like tomatoes, bitter and full of seeds	All parts of this plant are highly toxic, causing tremors, paralysis, collapse, and death in a deep coma.	Low straggling shrub, common weed	Call doctor
Be-Still Tree, Yellow Oleander (<i>Noho-Malie</i>)	shiny, dark green, leaves	yellow funnel-shaped flowers with mild fragrance	small, irregularly-shaped apples about an inch in diameter with two large oily seeds	All parts of the plant are poisonous and HIGHLY TOXIC. Children have been poisoned from using sticks of this wood on hot dogs or marshmallows.	Small tree	Early cases should vomit and given a strong laxative, Call doctor
Black-Eyed Susan, , Rosary Pea,	7-12 pairs of oblong leaflets, each ~1/2" long	Small, pink or lavender, crowded in short clusters	scarlet with a black patch, shiny and rounded	The seeds are HIGHLY TOXIC if eaten raw or inserted under the skin. (ONE SEED IS ENOUGH TO KILL.)	Smooth, slender, branching vine	Call doctor
Castor Bean Plant (<i>Paaila</i>)	6-11 broad-pointed lobes with toothed edges		Seed cases are prickly or smooth, ~1" long, contain 3 rounded, shiny seeds: black, gray, or brown	Seeds are HIGHLY TOXIC when introduced to the blood stream via a cut or scratch, from stringing seeds for leis & from eating them. Causing loss of appetite, vomiting, frequent bowel movements, shock, and even death	Weed ranging in size from 3-30', green or red hollow stems	Call doctor
Coral Plant	6-11 deeply notched lobes	Red and branch in clusters like one type of coral	Oval-shaped green or yellow, ~1" long, contains 2-3 seeds	Seeds - eating large dosages may cause vomiting and frequent bowl movements	Smooth ornamental shrub with milky juice. 5-10' high	Do not stop vomiting, call doctor
Crown Flower (<i>Pua Kalaunu</i>)	Pale green, nearly stemless, 3-10" long, indented at base and woolly underneath.	White or lavender flowers ~1-1/2" diameter, 5 curled-back petals, prominent symmetrical crown		The milky juice may irritate or burn the skin or eyes and is EXTREMELY TOXIC in large doses. In cases of large doses, it may cause violent bowel movements and vomiting.	Large shrub up to 5' tall, thick downy branches	Call doctor
Jimson Weed, Thorn Apple (<i>Kikania, La'au-Hano</i>)	Large irregularly cut & toothed leaves, dark green above, light green below	White to violet, trumpet-shaped, 2-4" long & 2" across at the petals	Seed pods are spiny	All parts of the plant are poisonous and HIGHLY TOXIC. Headaches, nausea, vomiting, extreme thirst, partial paralysis, and loss of sight. In extreme cases death may occur.	Green-stemmed annual	Early cases should be made to vomit. Call doctor
Oleander (<i>'Oliwa</i>) Yellow Oleander (<i>Noho-Malie</i>)	Long, narrow, dull, leaves 4-8" long	Large, heavy heads of white to crimson scented flowers	Paired pod-like cylindrical fruits. Tiny seeds with wings.	All parts of the plant are highly poisonous, including the wood. Reactions are nausea, vomiting, dizziness, colic, drowsiness, respiratory paralysis and death	Shrub	Early cases should be made to vomit and given a strong laxative. Call doctor
Pencil Plant	None, or few, small & narrow	Inconspicuous, at forks of small branches		All parts of the plant contain a white milky sap	Large shrub, dull green, pencil-like stems	Wash skin immediately with water. If sap is in eye, flush with clean water and call doctor right away.
Physic Nut	Dark green leaves 3-7" long	Many small greenish flowers	Long yellow, fleshy capsules. Each contain to three black seeds which are pleasant but poisonous	Seeds are moderately toxic	A smooth shrub or small tree with milky juice and spongy wood	Do NOT stop the vomiting. Call doctor
Poinsettia	Rich green stemmed leaves 3-7" long	leaves terminating the stem are brilliant red, pink or white.	Small, inconspicuous green flowers form in bunches at the center of colored leaves	Milky juice with leaves that may cause vomiting and frequent vomiting and frequent bowel movements. If consumed in large amounts, may cause delirium or death.	2-10' high shrub	Treat for shock. Call doctor
Star Of Bethlehem (<i>Pua Hoku</i>)	Narrow, stemless leaves 2-6" long with many-pointed, toothed lobes	White, star-like erect flowers	~1/2" long capsule	The juice burns and is HIGHLY TOXIC Can cause blindness if it gets into the eyes	1-2' feet high herb, few or no branches	Call doctor

Poisonous Plants of Hawaii



Apple of Sodom, Thorny Popolo (Popolo Kikania) - *Solanum sodomium* L.

A common weed often found in dry, upland pastures or along roadsides. The shrub is low and straggling, with thorny leaves and small five-petaled blue flowers. The fruits are round, hard, pale yellow, somewhat resembling tomatoes. They are bitter and full of seeds.



Black-Eyed Susan, Crab's Eye, Rosary Pea or Jequirity Bean - *Arbus precatorius* L.

A smooth, slender, branching vine best known for its seeds. The seeds are scarlet with a black patch, shiny and rounded. The leaves have seven to twelve pairs of oblong leaflets, each about a half-inch long. Small pink or lavender flowers are crowded in short clusters.



Castor Bean Plant (Paaila) - *Ricinus communis* L.

A weed ranging in size from three to thirty feet. The large, handsome leaves have six to eleven broad-pointed lobes with toothed edges. Stems are green or red and hollow. Seed cases are prickly or smooth, about one inch long and contain three rounded, shiny, black, gray, or brown-marked seeds.



Coral Plant - *Jatropha multifida* L.

A smooth ornamental shrub with milky juice. Five to ten feet high. Flowers are red and branched in clusters like one type of coral. Fruit is oval-shaped, green or yellow when ripe, about one inch long and contains two or three seeds.



Crown Flower (Pua Kalaunu) - *Calotropis gigantea* (L.) R. Br.

A large shrub sometimes reaching a height of 15 feet. Has thick downy branches. White or lavender flowers about 1 1/2 inches in diameter have five curled-back petals and a prominent symmetrical crown. Leaves are pale green, nearly stemless, three to ten inches long, indented at base and wooly underneath.



Jimson Weed, Thorn Apple (Kikania, La'au-Hano) *Datura stamonium* L.

A green-stemmed annual with large leaves irregularly cut and toothed. Leaves are dark green above and light green below. Flowers are white to violet, trumpet-shaped, from two to four inches long and about two inches across at the petal. The seed pods are spiny.



Oleander ('Oliwa) - *Nerium oleander* L.

A common ornamental shrub with long, narrow, dull, evergreen leaves four to eight inches long. Large, heavy heads of scented flowers, ranging in color from white to crimson. Paired pod-like cylindrical fruits. Tiny seeds with wings.



Pencil Plant - *Euphorbia tirucalli* L.

A large shrub, frequently used as a small potted plant. Composed of a series of dull green, pencil-like stems. No leaves, or few, small and narrow. Inconspicuous flowers, at forks of small branches.



Physic Nut - *Jatropha curcas* L.

A smooth shrub or small tree with milky juice and spongy wood. It has dark green leaves three to seven inches long, resembling those of the kukui. The plant bears many small greenish flowers from which develop inch-long yellow, fleshy capsules. Each contains two to three black seeds which are pleasant tasting but poisonous.



Poinsettia - *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd (The Christmas flower) A shrub two to ten feet high, having rich green, long-stemmed leaves three to seven inches long. The leaves terminating the stem are brilliant red or, on some varieties, pink or white. The shrub has milky juice. The true flowers, greenish in color, form in bunches at the center of the brightly-colored leaves are a small and inconspicuous.



Star-of-Bethlehem (Pua Hoku) *Hippobroma longiflora* (L.) G. Don
An herb one to two feet high with few or no branches, found at low altitudes in Hawaii. White, star-like erect flowers. Narrow, stemless leaves two to six inches long with many-pointed, toothed lobes. The fruit is a nodding capsule about a half-inch long.



Yellow Oleander (Noho-Malie) *Thevetia peruviana* (Pers.) K.Schum. (Be-Still Tree)
Attractive, ever-blooming shrub or small tree with shiny, dark green, narrow leaves and yellow funnel-shaped flowers with a mild fragrance. One form has salmon-colored flowers. The fruits are small, irregularly-shaped apples about an inch in diameter and contain two large oily seeds.