

Identifying Poisonous Plants



Red Maple

Identification: Leaves are 2-6" wide with three or sometimes five lobes with small sharp teeth along edges. Leaves are bright green on top and whitish on bottom and turn brilliant red in the fall. Leaves become toxic when they are wilted.

Region: Most common in the northeast U.S. and southeast Canada



Yew

Identification: Dark green needles with lighter undersides. Seeds are encased in a soft, bright red berry. The berry itself is not toxic, but the seed inside and the needles are.

Region: Different varieties of yew grow throughout North America, primarily in the northern U.S. and southern Canada. Other varieties are found worldwide.



Oleander

Identification: The oleander plant has leathery, long, slender leaves. It is prized for its fragrant red, pink or white blossoms. Outdoor plants can grow up to a height of 10 feet. The leaves, flowers, stems and sap are all highly poisonous.

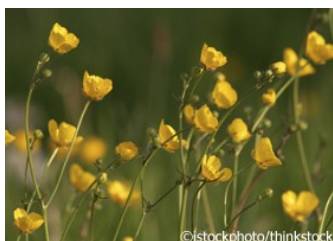
Region: Popular in California, it can also be found throughout the southern U.S.



Ragwort

Identification: Bright yellow flowers with outer ray petals on its blooms, similar to a daisy. Leaves are dark green with a ruffled appearance. These plants can grow up to 4-feet high.

Region: Primarily found in the Northeast and Northwestern U.S. Other varieties are found worldwide.



Buttercup

Identification: Stems can grow up to 3 feet high, leafy at the base and branched at the top. Flowers are bright yellow and glossy with 5 to 7 petals.

Region: Native to Europe, various types of buttercups are now found throughout North America.



Locoweed

Identification: Grows in clumps up to about a foot high and flowers with blue, purple, yellow or white blossoms. Because there are so many different plants categorized as locoweed, definitive identification requires a specialist.

Region: Primarily found in arid regions of the American Southwest, locoweed can be found throughout western North America.