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# Know your plants MANY ARE POISONOUS

*By Christine Urquhart*  
Many of us garden, or at least have some annual flowers growing in our gardens. Did you know that many of these plants are poisonous? Here are a few flowers which we see in our local gardens and their information:



**Bleeding Heart:** All parts of this plant are poisonous. If some part of the plant is ingested the symptoms are: Trembling, loss of balance, weakness, difficulty in breathing, and convulsions.

**Black-Eyed Susans and Cornflowers:** All parts are poisonous. If ingested the symptoms, which have only been reported in cattle and horses, can cause internal bleeding. They need to eat large amounts for this to happen.



**Goldenrod:** All parts are poisonous, but again, only cases of cattle and horses have been reported.  
**Iris:** The leaves, rhizomes and plant juices are poisonous. The symptoms are: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal pain.  
**Morning Glory:** The seeds are poisonous. Symptoms include: hallucinogenic reactions when 50 or more seeds are eaten; nausea, digestive upset, blurred vision, mental confusion, low blood pressure and coma.  
**Lily-of-the-Valley:** All parts are poisonous. Symptoms include: irregular heartbeat, nausea, confusion, pupil dilation, headache, circulatory collapse, and death.  
**Lupines:** All parts, especially the seeds are poisonous.

Ingestion of a relatively large quantity of lupines over a brief time is generally required. Symptoms include: difficulty breathing, twitching, convulsions, unconsciousness, and death. It has been known to cause poisoning and death in cattle, sheep, goats and horses.  
**Poppy:** All parts, especially raw, green seeds, ripe poppy seeds are harmless. Symptoms include: deep sleep, dizziness, delirium, slow breathing and death. Poisoning and addiction from opium and its derivatives are common. Eating other parts, besides the seeds can cause nausea, vomiting, stomach pains, and twitching muscles.  
**Sweet Pea:** The seeds are poisonous. If you ingest a large amount it will induce the following symptoms: prickly sensation, cramps, lameness, paralysis and death.  
There are many other plants, or parts of plants which are poisonous. Before letting your children or your pets chew on any plant in your garden be sure to check to see if it is poisonous. It is better to take precautions than be sorry afterwards.

# New Exhibit Introduced at Museum Open House on June 7



Randy Culgin, Debert, looks at the detail in the model of the former Kennedy Water Sawmill which forms part of the new display at Colchester County Museum. (Submitted)

*Submitted by Dale Ells*  
Many attended the early evening event to see the new exhibit and to participate in related activities. In his opening remarks, Curator Aidan Norton welcomed all and explained the theme of the display. Out of the Woodwork is an exhibit about a particular resource and how people in Colchester and Cobequid have used that resource and worked with it over time. We've certainly built a lot of things out of lumber, including whole communities. The exhibit highlights the social and economic progress that has resulted from our ongoing relationship with the forest.

It's also about the creativity that wood has inspired. For many builders and artisans in the past and right up until the present day, the forest has offered a material to work with and a subject matter to explore.  
Special guest Beth McGee spoke with pride about the variety of commerce based on

the family woodlands that were pursued by her father, Dr. Wilfred Creighton, former Deputy Minister of Lands and Forests. He could always see the value and future of sustainable woodlot operations. Even in his very senior years he decided to add a maple syrup project to a section of his holdings.  
The exhibit includes many creative and practical examples of how our wood has been used. Selected art work inspired by trees has been included. There are special interactive features which will help one enjoy learning more details.  
A very unique part of the exhibit is the canoe project. A fourteen foot fiddlehead canoe of wood is being constructed during the summer and autumn by David Boehm. Photos of his progress will be posted on the Museum's face-book page.  
**The exhibit continues until October 15, 2012.**



During the Colchester County Museum open house baked beans were served by Wyn Harvey, who earlier worked as a lumber camp cook. (Submitted)

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