

Pick Your Poison | Sunset Cinema Scavenger Hunt

How many Utah native poisonous plants can you find?

Snap a photo or circle the location on our garden map to enter to win a prize.



Cicuta maculata

Water Hemlock contains cicutoxin which if eaten can cause stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea, convulsions, seizures, and can even be fatal. This plant can be found throughout the US and thrives in wet soils near streams, ponds, or marshes.

Hint: Found near Water Pavilion



Datura wrightii

Sacred Datura can be found in southwestern North America and is a powerful hallucinogen causing visual illusions, confusion, delirium, and even death. Large white flowers bloom at night and are a great food source for nocturnal pollinators like bats and moths.

Hint: Found on the Floral Walk and near the Fragrance Garden



Asclepias spp.

Milkweed tends to grow in sandy soils and is a very important food source for the monarch butterfly. It is often found growing in ditches, pastures, and roadsides, making livestock the main victims of its poisonous properties, causing breathing difficulties, weakness, and stomach issues.

Hint: Found in Water Conservation Garden and Floral Walk



Arnica chamissonis

Chamisso Arnica is found in western North America and thrives in wet soils with lots of sunlight. When consumed in large amounts it can cause vomiting, heart damage, internal bleeding, coma, or death. However, it can be used externally for its anti-inflammatory properties.

Hint: Found near the Medicinal Garden



Toxicodendron rydbergii

Poison Ivy can be found throughout the US. Although not technically poisonous to humans, this plant can cause allergic reactions when touched due to presence of the oil urushiol, including painful swelling, rashes, itching, and blisters that can get worse depending on the amount of exposure. Around 15% of people are tolerant to urushiol and do not have reactions, and many animals can consume the leaves and fruit with no side effects.

Hint: Found near the Natural Area Meadow

Resources:

Fs.usda.gov

National Library of Medicine - <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK501828/>

Photos: Jason Baker or RBG staff/volunteer


**RED BUTTE
GARDEN**

