

beware!!!! **dangerous!!!!**
poisonous!!!! **caution!!!!**

The following is a list of poisonous plants that are either look-alikes of an edible plant or an edible plant which has some poisonous parts.

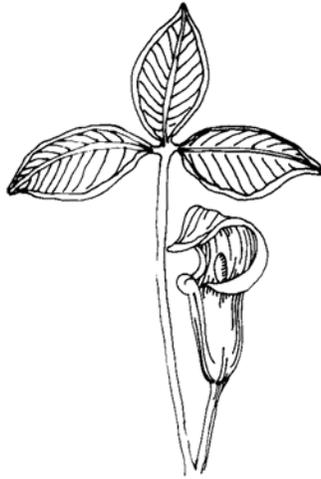
JACK IN THE PULPIT

(Arisaema atrorubens)

FLOWERS: April - June

HABITAT: Wooded areas or
low bottom thickets

LOCATION: Statewide



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CAUTION: The corm could be harmful if eaten raw. It contains calcium oxalate. Some individuals with sensitive skins can develop a rash from touching the leaves or corm.

FLY POISON (*Amianthium*)

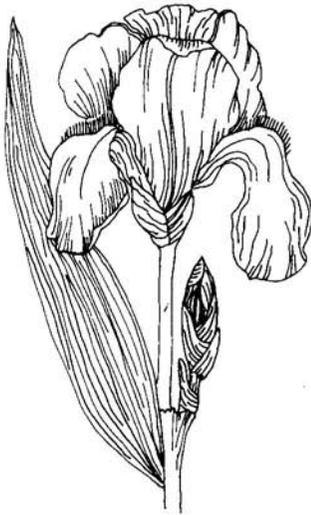
FLOWERS: May - July

HABITAT: Acid soils or
sandy or cherty ground
of low wooded slopes

LOCATION: Southern
Missouri



CAUTION: Might be mistaken for wild onion. A clue is not to pick onion or garlic substitutes in the wild if there is no familiar onion odor associated with the plant.



BLUE FLAG (*Iris germanica*)

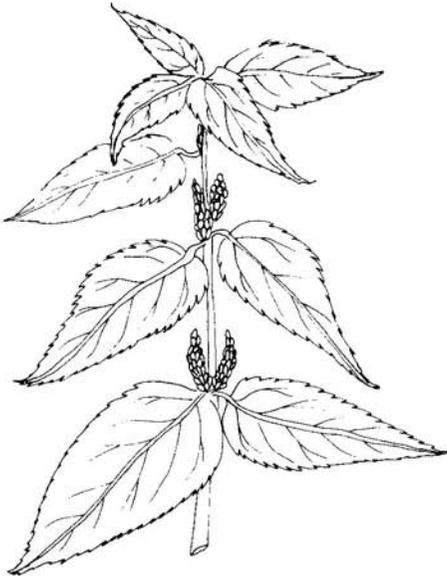
FLOWERS: March - April

HABITAT: Rock and other
gardens, escapee

LOCATION: Statewide in
gardens, rare in the wild

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CAUTION: The rootstalk could prove fatal if eaten. Care should be taken not to confuse it with Sweet Flag or Calamus.



WOOD NETTLE (*Laportea canadensis*)

FLOWERS: Late May -
August

HABITAT: Rich low wood-
land, valleys, along
streams

LOCATION: Statewide

CAUTION: Plant has stinging hairs on the leaves and stems which cause itching.

HOPS (*Humulus lupulus*)

FLOWERS: July - August

HABITAT: Waste ground,
open, fertile areas,
fencerows, shaded
thickets, railroads

LOCATION: Statewide
except low southeastern
Missouri



214

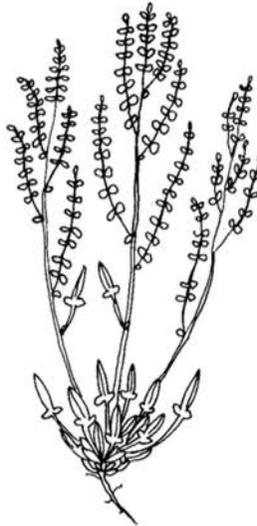
CAUTION: Leaves cause dermatitis in some people.

FIELD SORREL (*Rumex acetosella*)

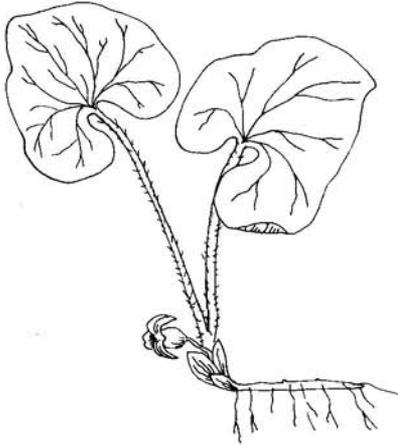
FLOWERS: May - September

HABITAT: Sour soils of
fallow fields, open
waste ground, railroads

LOCATION: Every county



CAUTION: Leaves are cause of dermatitis for sensitive skins.
Overdose of the raw plant can cause upset stomach and poisoning.



WILD GINGER (*Asarum canadense*)

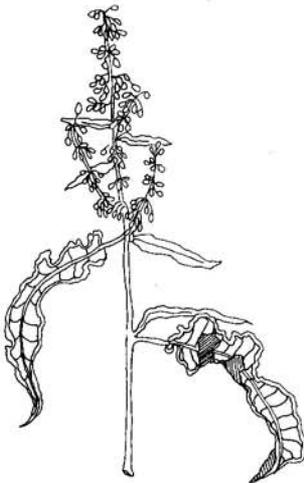
FLOWERS: April - May

HABITAT: Rich wooded slopes, valleys, ravine bottoms

LOCATION: Statewide except extreme west and southeast

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CAUTION: Leaves have been known to cause a rash on some individuals. Wild ginger's reputed "medicinal properties" suggest moderation in its use.



SOUR DOCK (*Rumex crispus*)

FLOWERS: April - May

HABITAT: Fields, gardens, railroads, waste ground

LOCATION: Every county

CAUTION: Leaves can cause a rash on some people.

SMARTWEED (*Polygonum*
species)

FLOWERS: May - November

HABITAT: Fields, pastures,
moist ground

LOCATION: Every county



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CAUTION: Leaves have been known to cause a rash on some individuals. Also the juice or sap can cause an unpleasant "smarting" sensation if it comes in contact with the eyes or nostrils.

POKE WEED (*Phytolacca*
americana)

FLOWERS: May - October

HABITAT: Rich soils in
waste ground, farm
lots, around dwellings,
roadsides, railroads

LOCATION: Every county



CAUTION: Roots are poisonous and narcotic, causing vomiting, diarrhea and in some instances death. Green berries and seeds are questionable. Raw greens are toxic.



PAWPAW (*Asimina triloba*)

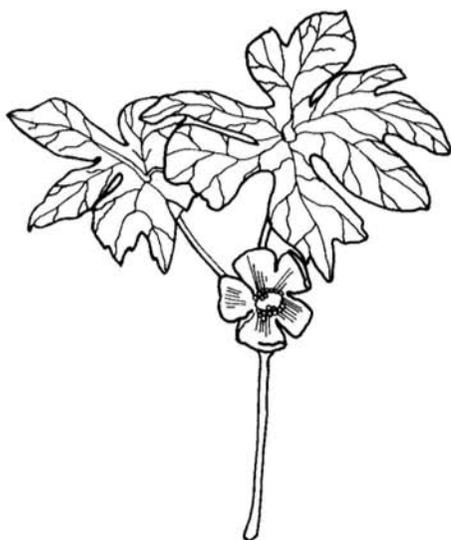
FLOWERS: March - May

HABITAT: Low bottom
woods, wooded slopes
along streams, ravines,
base of bluffs

LOCATION: Statewide

217

CAUTION: The fruits are a source of allergic reactions to certain individuals as a result of either eating or touching them.



MAY APPLE (*Podophyllum
peltatum*)

FLOWERS: March - May

HABITAT: Low moist or dry
open woods or thickets

LOCATION: Every county

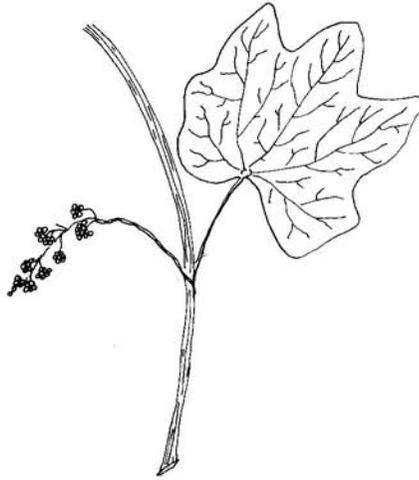
CAUTION: All parts of this plant are considered poisonous except the ripe fruits. The rootstock has been known to be a cause of dermatitis from touching and a fatal prostration from eating.

MOONSEED (*Menispermum canadense*)

FLOWERS: May - July

HABITAT: Low moist woods and thickets, ravines, along streams, valleys, fencerows

LOCATION: Every county



218

CAUTION: Clusters of grape-like fruits can be mistaken for wild grape. Seeds are toxic. The seeds of moonseed are flat and moon-shaped.

BLACK LOCUST (*Robinia pseudo-acacia*)

FLOWERS: May - June

HABITAT: Dry or rocky upland woods, streams, pastures, thickets, waste ground

LOCATION: Statewide



CAUTION: The seeds and bark are poisonous. Flowers are used in fritters.



CHERRY, PLUM, PEACH
(*Prunus*)

FLOWERS: April - May

HABITAT: Woodland,
thickets, along streams, 219
fencerows, cultivated

LOCATION: Statewide



CAUTION: Leaves should not be used in a tea. The wilted leaves develop an acid which has killed animals.

**JEWEL WEED, TOUCH ME
NOT (*Impatiens*)**

FLOWERS: May - October

HABITAT: Rich or damp low
woods, swampy ground,
along streams



220 LOCATION: Every county

CAUTION: This is an acknowledged edible by some, a cautioned poison by others. They have proved poisonous to livestock. A wise man is a cautious, live one!

**BUCKTHORN (*Rhamnus*
species)**

FLOWERS: April - June

HABITAT: Cultivation,
escaped in woods,
roadsides, waste ground

LOCATION: Scattered
statewide



CAUTION: Buckthorn leaves are similar to those of the cherry tree and they also bear clusters of black berries. These berries, as well as the bark and leaves, are poisonous, acting as a violent laxative.



**BUCKEYE, HORSE
CHESTNUT (*Aesculus*)**

FLOWERS: April - May

HABITAT: Rich, rocky
woods, valleys,
ravines, slopes, base
of bluffs, thickets

LOCATION: Statewide
except extreme south-
east Missouri

221

CAUTION: Seeds are poisonous and can cause a coma. They seem to be safe after boiling or roasting.



**PIMPERNEL (*Anagallis
arvensis*)**

FLOWERS: May - September

HABITAT: Fields, pastures,
rocky glades, edge of
bluffs, roadsides,
railroads

LOCATION: South and
central Missouri

CAUTION: Some sources declare this a salad and potherb material, others insist it to be poisonous. Best to use care here.

POISON HEMLOCK (*Conium maculatum*)

FLOWERS: May - August

222 HABITAT: Waste ground, fields, pastures, fence-rows, thickets, low ground, roadsides, railroads

LOCATION: Scattered



CAUTION: The seeds, leaves and roots cause paralysis, then death. The victim has a clear mind to the end. This is famous as the drink that did Socrates in. It looks a great deal like Queen Anne's Lace except the stem of Poison Hemlock is smooth and without hairs.



WATER HEMLOCK (*Cicuta*)

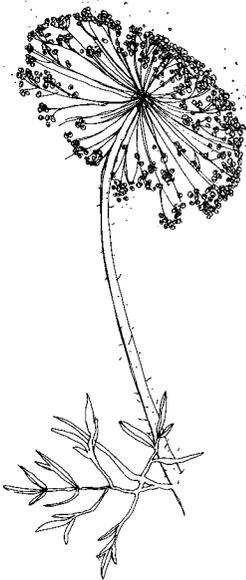
FLOWERS: May - September

HABITAT: Borders of ponds, sloughs, ditches, spring branches, wet depressions of prairies, low and upland meadows

LOCATION: Every county

223

CAUTION: All parts of the plant, but especially the roots, are deadly. The roots smell and taste like parsnips. They produce violent convulsions.



QUEEN ANNE'S LACE

(*Daucus carota*)

FLOWERS: May - October

HABITAT: Fields, waste ground, roadsides, railroads, thickets, gravel bars, woodland

LOCATION: Statewide

CAUTION: The leaves have caused some individuals to develop dermatitis. Do not confuse with poisonous hemlock.

DOGBANE, INDIAN HEMP

(*Apocynum*)

FLOWERS: May - August

HABITAT: Prairies, glades,
rocky open woods,
thickets, waste ground,
railroads

LOCATION: Statewide



224

CAUTION: Can be mistaken for milkweed as it is coming up. Dogbane leaf is smooth and mature plant forks. When eaten, dogbane can produce vomiting and diarrhea.

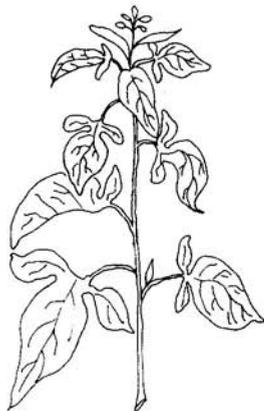
BITTERSWEET

NIGHTSHADE (*Solanum
dulcamara*)

FLOWERS: May - November

HABITAT: Low woods,
thickets, roadsides,
fencerows

LOCATION: Scattered
statewide



CAUTION: Seeds of this plant are poisonous.

MILKWEEDS (*Asclepias*)

FLOWERS: May - August

HABITAT: Varies with
species

LOCATION: Some species
statewide



225

CAUTION: Raw plants of all milkweed are poisonous if eaten. Cattle have been poisoned from grazing on butterfly weed leaves and stems. Milkweed and dogbane can be confused in the early growing stages.

BLACK NIGHTSHADE

(*Solanum nigrum*)

FLOWERS: May - November

HABITAT: Open woodland,
streams, around dwell-
ings, fallow fields,
pastures, roadsides

LOCATION: Statewide



226

CAUTION: Although this plant has been experimented as an edible, the berries are poisonous to some people and caution should be exercised when using.

HORSE NETTLE (*Solanum carolinense*)

FLOWERS: May - October

HABITAT: Waste ground,
fallow and cultivated
fields, prairies, road-
sides, railroads

LOCATION: Every county



CAUTION: Seeds are poisonous. Sometimes called wild tomato. Suggested perhaps ripe fruits and subterranean tubers are edible.



JIMSON WEED (*Datura stramonium*)

FLOWERS: May - October

HABITAT: Pastures,
barnlots, fields, waste
areas, roadsides, rail-
roads, rocky open areas

LOCATION: Statewide

227

CAUTION: Seeds, leaves, flowers and stems highly poisonous. Causes abnormal thirst, distorted sight, delirium, incoherence and coma. Can be fatal. Resembles the night-flowering vine of morning glory as well as the flower of the wild petunia.



ELDERBERRY (*Sambucus*)

FLOWERS: May - July

HABITAT: Open woods,
thickets, along streams,
fencerows, roadsides,
railroads

LOCATION: Every county

CAUTION: The bark and twigs are poisonous. Children who have used the pithy stems as a blow gun or chewed on the bark are believed to have been poisoned. Cattle and sheep who ate the leaves, young shoots and buds are known to have been fatally poisoned.

APPLE OF PERU (*Nicandra physalodes*)

FLOWERS: July - September

HABITAT: Cultivated and fallow fields, waste ground

LOCATION: Scattered in south and central Missouri



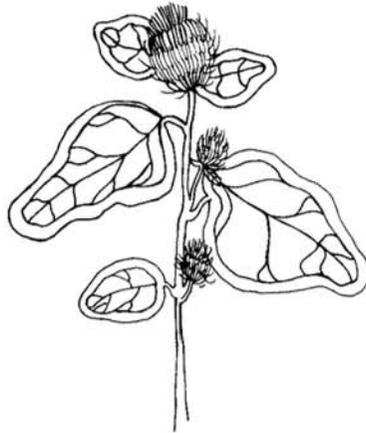
CAUTION: This plant is sometimes used as a fly poison. Very poisonous. Bladder husk fruits not to be confused with ground cherries.

GREAT BURDOCK (*Arctium*)

FLOWERS: July - October

HABITAT: Waste ground, around dwellings, woodlands, thickets, railroads

LOCATION: Statewide



CAUTION: Leaves have caused a rash on some people.

A plant one should recognize when looking for edibles, picking berries, hiking or just enjoying the out of doors is poison ivy.

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POISON IVY (*Rhus radicans*)

FLOWERS: May - July

HABITAT: Fencerows, roadsides, railroads, waste ground, low and upland dry or wet woods, along streams, valleys, wooded slopes, thickets

LOCATION: Every county

CAUTION: Any part of the plant, due to the oil therein, can produce a rash. Gibbons reports of Kentucky people who eat the young leaves in an effort to build up an immunity.