



Poison Petals

Don't Eat!



by Ellen Lawrence

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BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

Credits

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Publisher: Kenn Goin

Editorial Director: Adam Siegel

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Design: Elaine Wilkinson

Photo Researcher: Ruby Tuesday Books Ltd

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Lawrence, Ellen, 1967–

Poison petals : don't eat! / by Ellen Lawrence.

p. cm. — (Plant-ology)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-61772-590-6 (library binding) — ISBN 1-61772-590-0 (library binding)

1. Poisonous plants—Juvenile literature. I. Title.

QK100.A1L39 2013

581.6'59—dc23

2012018639

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For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 45 West 21st Street, Suite 3B, New York, New York 10010. Printed in the United States of America.

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Danger in the Garden

A farmer's goat has escaped from its pen.

It spots some pink flowers in a nearby garden and is about to take a bite.

Just then, the farmer appears and chases the goat away.

The animal doesn't know it, but it was very lucky.

The rhododendron flowers it was about to eat were **poisonous**!

Colorful
rhododendron
(roh-duh-DEN-druhn)
plants grow in many gardens.
These plants have flowers and
leaves that are poisonous. If
animals or humans eat them,
they will vomit and get
stomach pains. They
might even die.

rhododendron
flower

leaf

Why do you think
a plant might have
flowers or leaves
that are poisonous?



Poisonous— Don't Eat!

Plants can't move away from animals that want to eat them.

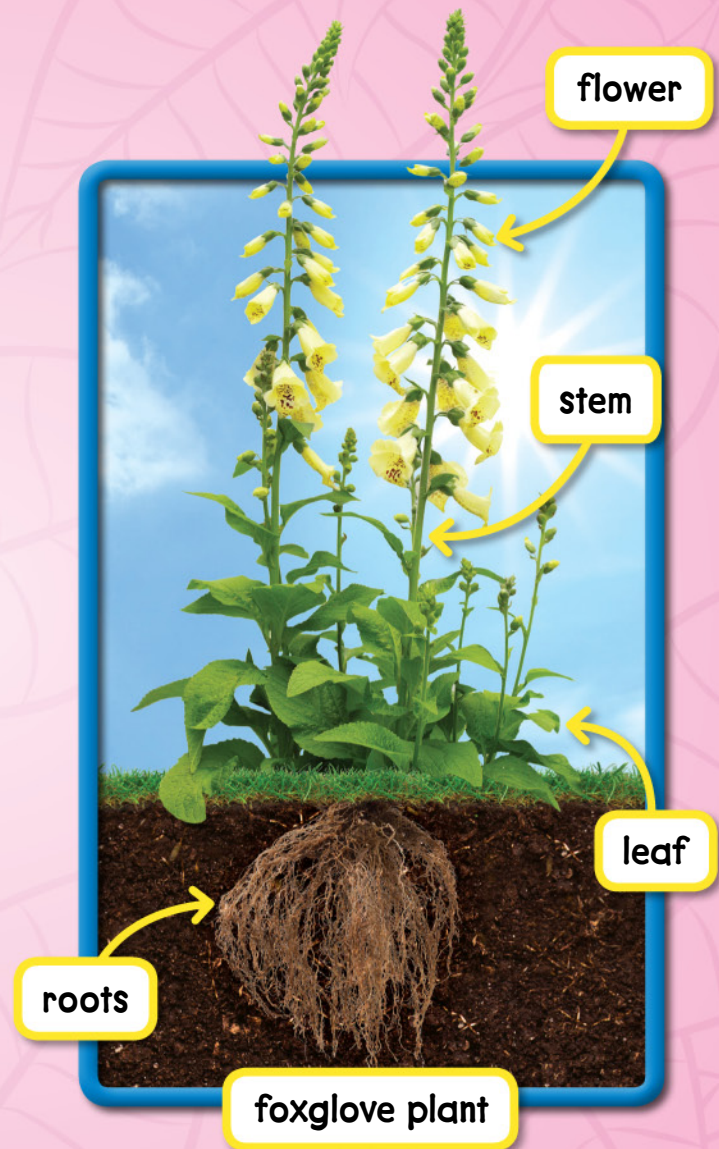
So many plants get protection in other ways.

Some have flowers, leaves, stems, roots, or other parts that are poisonous.

If animals eat these plants and get sick, they usually learn not to eat them again.

Some plants, such as foxgloves, are very poisonous.

Every part of a foxglove contains poison.



Plants
make seeds that grow
into new plants. Being
poisonous is one way some
plants protect themselves
from being eaten so that
they can live long
enough to make
their seeds.

foxglove



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Read More

Day, Jeff. *Don't Touch That! The Book of Gross, Poisonous, and Downright Icky Plants and Critters.* Chicago: Chicago Review Press (2008).

Halfmann, Janet. *Plant Tricksters.* New York: Scholastic (2003).

Woolard, Sarah. *Dangerous Plants (DK ELT Graded Readers).* London: Dorling Kindersley (2000).

Learn More Online

To learn more about poisonous plants, visit
www.bearportpublishing.com/Plant-ology

Answers

Page 13: All of the berries are very poisonous! It's not possible to tell if a berry is poisonous by looking at it. That's why you should never taste a berry or any plant without knowing what kind it is and whether it is safe to eat.

About the Author

Ellen Lawrence lives in the United Kingdom. Her favorite books to write are those about nature and animals. In fact, the first book Ellen bought for herself, when she was six years old, was the story of a gorilla named Patty Cake that was born in New York's Central Park Zoo.

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Poison Petals

Don't Eat!

Some of the most deadly poisons in the world come from seemingly harmless plants. People and animals that eat parts of these plants can get sick—or even worse! Which ones are best to avoid? Look inside to learn the answer to this question and find out about some of the most famous poisonous seeds, fruits, flowers, leaves, and stems of all time!

Amazing Plant Bodies
Tiny to Gigantic

Cooking with Sunshine
How Plants Make Food

Freaky Plant Facts
Extreme Greens

From Bird Poop to Wind
How Seeds Get Around

Meat-Eating Plants
Toothless Wonders

Poison Petals
Don't Eat!

Prickly Plants
Stuck!

What Lily Gets from Bee
And Other Pollination Facts

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