

Scary Plants for Halloween

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Aconitum spp.: monkshood, wolfsbane: beautiful fall, blue flowers, but very poisonous plant

Actea pachypoda: white baneberry, doll's eyes: fruit looks like small, white eyeballs, very poisonous plant

Amelanchier spp.: serviceberry, shadblow: white flowers in early spring indicate it is time for burial of the dead

Amorphophallus titanum: corpse flower: flowers once every few years, but when open, the flowers smells like rotting flesh

Aralia spinosa: Devil's walking stick: stems and leaves covered in sharp spines, mildly poisonous, black fruit

Celosia argentea (Cristata Group): cockscomb celosia: bright red, orange or yellow flower heads look like brains

Dionaea muscipula: Venus fly trap: carnivorous plant, leaves snap shut trapping insects that eventually digests the insect

Hamamelis virginiana: common witchhazel: small, yellow flowers in fall, scary common name

Hypericum spp.: St. Johnswort: yellow flowers, but, if leaves eaten, causes phytotoxic reaction causing skin burns in sun

Ilex vomitoria: Yaupon holly: Native Americans used lots of leaves and fruit in tea with other herbs that causes them to vomit

Lamprocapnos (formerly *Dicentra*) *spectabilis*: bleeding hearts: spring flowers on long stem, resembles a pink or red heart

Maclura pomifera: osage-orange: female trees produce heavy, very large, brain-like fruit, stems covered in thorns

Monotropa uniflora: ghost plant, Indian pipe: all white parasitic plant, no chlorophyll, lives off of decaying plants and fungi

Rhus radicans: poison-ivy: getting sap from this plant on your body causes very painful rash that can last a week or more

Sanguinaria canadensis: bloodroot: roots and rhizomes contain blood red sap and is poisonous, can cause dead skin flesh

Xylaria spp.: deadman's fingers: fungi found at base of dying trees or in wood mulch, looks like dead fingers arising from ground