



Basildon Borough Heritage Society

**HEALTH AND SAFETY
Poisonous plants policy**

March 2014

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Policy statement

Basildon Borough Heritage Society believes that the health and safety of everyone who visits Wat Tyler Park is of paramount importance and that we make our setting a safe and healthy place by assessing and removing potential hazards and risks including unknown plant growth and faeces which could cause harm.

Our procedures include

- Advising and co-ordinating with the site manager when weed-killing chemicals are used to ensure everyone is isolated from that area of risk.
- Advising all everyone in the setting of the treated areas and assessing the timescales required.

Poisonous food plants

- Apple (*Malus domestica*) Seeds contain cyanogenic glycosides.
- Cherry (*Prunus cerasus*) Leaves and seeds contain cyanogenic glycosides.
- Peach (*Prunus persica*) Leaves and seeds contain cyanogenic glycosides.
- Plum (*Prunus domestica*) Leaves and seeds contain cyanogenic glycosides.
- Potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) Foliage and green tinged tubers are toxic.
- Rhubarb (*Rheum rhaponticum*) Leaves but not stems contain oxalic acid salts.
- Almonds (*Prunus Dolcis*) Leaves and seeds contain cyanogenic glycosides.
- Apricots (*Prunus armeninaca*) Leaves and seeds contain cyanogenic glycosides.
- Mushrooms - There are many folk traditions concerning the defining features of poisonous mushrooms unfortunately there are no general identifiers for poisonous mushrooms (only guidelines to identify mushrooms themselves exist, if one knows what mushroom is toxic), and so such traditions are unreliable guides. Use of folk traditions to try to identify edible mushrooms is a frequent cause of mushroom poisoning.

Of the many thousands of mushroom species in the world, only 32 have been associated with fatalities, and an additional 52 have been identified as containing significant toxins. By far the majority of mushroom poisonings are not fatal, but the majority of fatal poisonings are attributable to the Amanita phalloides mushroom.

Other poisonous plants

- Aconite (wolfbane, monkshood) (*Acontium napellus*) In unripe seed pods and roots but all parts poisonous
- Autumn Crocus - The bulbs are poisonous.
- Azalea – all parts of the plant are poisonous.
- Bittersweet nightshade – all parts of the plant are poisonous.
- Bleeding heart or Dutchman's breeches – Leaves and roots are poisonous.
- Black nightshade (*Solanum nigrum*) – all parts of the plant except ripe fruit are poisonous.
- Angels Trumpet (*Brugmansia*) all parts of the plant contain tropane alkaloids scopolamine and atropine.
- Caladium or elephants Ear – all parts of the plant are poisonous.
- Castor Oil plant (*Ricinus communis*) – The phytotoxin is Ricin concentrated in the seed and highly poisonous.
- Daffodil – The bulbs are poisonous.
- Daphne (*Daphne* sp) The berries are either red or yellow and are poisonous.

- Darnel or Poison Ryegrass (*Lolium temulentum*) The seeds and seed heads of this common garden weed contain the alkaloids temuline and loline and also fungus growth that may occur is toxic.
- Datura nightshade – contain the alkaloids scopolamine and atrophine – More a hallucinogenic.
- Deadly nightshade (*Atropa belladonna*) – All parts of the plant contain the toxic alkaloid atrophine.
- Deathcamas or Black snakeroot – All parts of the plant are poisonous.
- Delphinium – Contains the alkaloid Delsoline – young plants and seeds are poisonous.
- Doll’s eyes berries as well as all parts of the plant are highly poisonous.
- Elderberry – The roots are poisonous.
- European Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) The berries are poisonous.
- Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) All parts of the plant are poisonous and contain glycosides
- Gifblaar (*Dichapatelum cymosum*) Contains the metablic poison flouroacetic acid.
- Hemloch (*Conium maculatum*) All parts of the plant contain the alkaloid Coniine.
- Henbane – The seeds and foliage are poisonous.
- Horse-chestnut – All parts of the plant are poisonous.
- Ivy – The leaves and berries are poisonous.
- Hyacinth – The bulbs are poisonous.
- Jequirity – The seeds are highly poisonous.
- Jerusalem cherry – all parts of the plant are poisonous especially to children.
- Jimson weed, Datura, Thorn apple, Stinkweed or Jamestown weed (*Datura stramonium*) All parts of the plant are poisonous.
- Laburnum – All parts especially the seeds are poisonous.
- Larkspur (*both Delphinium and Consolida*) Young plants and seeds are poisonous.
- Lilies – most plants are poisonous especially to cats.
- Manchineel (*Hippomane mancinella*) All parts of the tree including the fruit contain toxic phorbol esters typical of the Euphorbiaceane.
- Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*) Green portions of the plant including unripe fruit are poisonous.
- Monkshood – all parts of the plant are poisonous.
- Moonseed – The fruits and seeds are poisonous.
- Oleander (Nerium oleander) All parts are toxic containing nerioside, oleandroside, saponins and glycosides especially the leaves and woody stems.
- Oak – most species foliage and acorns are mildly poisonous.
- Poison-Ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*), Poison-Oak (*T. diversilobum*) and Poison Suman (*T. vernix*) contain highly irritating oils with urushiol causing skin reactions.
- Pokeweed – (*Phytolacca sp.*) Leaves berries and roots contain phytolaccatoxin.
- Privet (Ligustrum sp.) Berries and leaves are poisonous containing ligustrin and syringin.
- Water Hemlock – The root when freshly pulled out of the ground is extremely poisonous and contains the toxic Cicuta virosa.
- White Snakeroot – All parts are poisonous.
- Yellow Jessamine – All parts are highly poisonous and it is possible to become ill from ingesting honey made from Jessamine Nectar.
- Yew (*Taxus baccata*) All parts of the plant except for the fleshy red part of the fruit contain taxane alkaloids. The seeds are especially poisonous.

This Policy was adopted at a meeting of Basildon Borough Heritage Society meeting held on

Signed: _____ (Chairman)

Review Date: _____