

TOOLBOX TALK

60. POISONOUS PLANTS & FUNGI

What?

- **Poisonous plants and fungi can cause anything from mild skin irritation to a more serious illness or allergic reaction, or death.**
- **Some of the more common plants that might be encountered are: Deadly Nightshade, Woody Nightshade (Bittersweet), Foxglove, Lords and Ladies, Monkshood, Hemlock, Rhubarb and Daffodil.**
- **These plants and some fungi can cause skin irritations, nausea and vomiting, stomach irritation, headaches, hallucinations, sore throat and/or difficulty breathing if ingested, or in the case of Hemlock, Deadly Nightshade, and some fungi species, death.**



Deadly nightshade



Monkshood

Why?

- You should familiarise yourself with the identification of poisonous plants so you can reduce the risk of contact and/or unnecessary ingestion.
- It is best to avoid touching all fungi.
- Particular care needs to be taken when working with groups of disabled people who might be more prone to putting things in their mouth, particularly down the allotment where we actively encourage picking berries and harvesting other fruit and vegetables.



Lords and Ladies



Woody nightshade



Foxglove

Do ✓

- ✓ Try to avoid working in areas where poisonous plants are known to grow
- ✓ Always wear gloves when working in overgrown areas to avoid coming into contact with poisonous plants or fungi, which may be hidden from view
- ✓ Make everyone aware of the dangers of coming into contact with poisonous plants and fungi and how to recognise them
- ✓ Wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking
- ✓ Seek medical assistance as soon as possible if someone comes into contact or ingests a poisonous plant or fungi
- ✓ Save a specimen for identification purposes

Don't ✗

- ✗ Don't touch, pick or eat anything that is unfamiliar or known to be poisonous
- ✗ Don't trample or disturb plants and fungi that may emit spores, which can be breathed in and also cause harm
- ✗ Don't induce vomiting if a poisonous plant or fungi is ingested
- ✗ Don't ignore symptoms of poisoning



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