There are a number of sources of information on the more than 700 species of plants, ferns, horsetails, and fungi that can cause toxic, though rarely fatal, reactions in humans and animals. This guide is intended for those who wish to review published materials on poisonous plants in the collections of the Library of Congress. It is not intended to be a comprehensive bibliography. Categories include: (1) "Brief Introductions"; (2) "Subject Headings"; (3) "Basic Texts"; (4) "Titles Reflecting Different Geographical Areas"; (5) "Specialized Titles"; (6) "Handbooks"; (7) "Conference Proceedings"; (8) "Government Publications"; (9) "Abstracting and Indexing Services"; (10) "Representative Journal Articles"; (11) "Reports"; (12) "Selected Technical Reports"; (13) "Selected Materials"; and (14) "Additional Sources of Information." (CW)
POISONOUS PLANTS
Compiled by Constance Carter

July 1990

SCOPE:
Sources useful in locating published materials on the more than 700 species of plants, ferns, horsetails, and fungi that can cause toxic, though rarely fatal, reactions in humans and animals. A partial update of Poisonous Plants and Animals (TB 78-12), this guide is intended for those who wish to review published materials on poisonous plants in the collections of the Library of Congress. Not meant to be a comprehensive bibliography, this guide is designed--as the name of the series implies--to put the reader "on target."

BRIEF INTRODUCTIONS

Pamphlet box* and RC86.E45

Pamphlet box* and SB1.E3

Pamphlet box* and QP631.T6

SUBJECT HEADINGS used by the Library of Congress, under which books on poisonous plants can be located in most card, book, and online catalogs, include the following:

POISONOUS PLANTS (Highly relevant)
See also names of individual plants, e.g., POISON-IVY, POISON OAK, METOPHUM TOXIFERA (Highly relevant)

*Available in reference collection, Science Reading Room
BASIC TEXTS


Chapter 5 written by Martha J. Powell.


Extensive bibliographies at ends of chapters.


Bibliography: p. 213-221.
SPECIALIZED TITLES


HANDBOOKS


Translation of Giftpflanzen: Ein handbuch für Apotheker, Ärzte, Toxikologen, und Biologen, 2nd ed.
-3-

TITLES REFLECTING DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS

Bibliography: p. 165-166.

Evers, Robert August, and Roger P. Link. Poisonous plants of the Midwest & their effects on livestock. Urbana, Distributed by the University of Illinois Press, 1972. 165 p. (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, College of Agriculture. Special publication, 24)
Based on Illinois plants poisonous to livestock, by L. R. Tehon, C. C. Morrill, and R. Graham.


Bibliography: p. 161-166.

Bibliography: p. 223-225.

Bibliography: p. 475-476.


Toxicants of plant origin. Editor, Peter R. Cheeke. Boca Raton, Fla., CRC Press, c1989. 4 v. Contents:


CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS


"Proceedings of an International Conference on Toxic Algae, held June 29-July 2, 1980, at Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio."

"Directory to toxic blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) literature, compiled by Wayne W. Carmichael and Peter E. Bent:" p. 465-479.


Proceedings of a symposium held at Utah State University, Logan, June 19-24, 1977, which was held under the auspices of the United States-Australian Agreement for Scientific and Technical Cooperation for Joint Meetings.


Bibliography of Agriculture (1942-) Z5073.U572*
See: Poison Oak--Toxicology
Poisoning
Poison-Ivy--Control
Poison-Ivy--Toxicology
Poisonous Fungi
Poisonous Plants--Control
Poisonous Plants--Toxicology
Poisonous Weeds

Biological Abstracts (1926-) QH301.B37*
See: Mushroom(s)
Poison(s)
Poisoning
Poisonous
Names of individual plants

Biological & Agricultural Index (1916-) Z5073.A46*
See: Forage Poisoning
Poisonous Plants
Names of individual plants

Index Medicus (1960-) Z6660.I422*
See: Plants, Toxic
Mushroom Poisoning
Mycotoxins

Magazine Index (1980-) Available in several formats in LC
See: Poisonous Plants
Mushrooms, Poisonous
Names of individual plants

Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature (1901-) AI3.R45 SSRR
See: Mushrooms, Poisonous
Poison Ivy
Poisonous Plants

Toxicology Abstracts (1978-) RA1190.T695*
See: Plants under Section on Toxins and Other Natural Substances

JOURNALS in a wide variety of fields may contain articles on poisonous plants. The following titles represent only a small sample.

Arnoldia QK479.A7
Emergency Medicine RC86.E45
Horticulture SB1.H86
Journal of Natural Products QH1.L94
Journal of Range Management SF85.S67
Journal of Toxicology--Clinical Toxicology RA1190.C56
Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health RA1190.J67
Sponsored by the International Society on Toxinology.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS


"...originally published as a joint project between the Rhode Island Health Department and the U.S. Public Health Service, Division of Accident Prevention."

ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING SERVICES that index relevant journal articles and other literature are listed below. Some suggested terms are given as aids in searching.

Applied Science & Technology Index (1913-) Z7913.I7*
See: Poison Ivy
Poisons

Note: Consult reference librarian for location of abstracting and indexing services in the Science Reading Room
REPRESENTATIVE JOURNAL ARTICLES


Vietmeyer, Noel. Science has got its hands on poison ivy, oak and sumac: researchers have developed a skin test for sensitivity to these weeds, and foresee a vaccine that takes the itch out of them. Smithsonian, v. 16, Aug. 1985: 88-90, 92, 94-95, 137. AS30.S6

REPORTS and other types of literature are indexed in the following guides:

**Government Reports Announcements & Index (1946-) Z7916.G78**
See: Mushrooms
Poison Ivy
Poison Oak
Poisonous Plants

Monthly Catalog of United States Government Publications (1895-) Z1223.A18*
See: Poison-Ivy
Poison-Oak
Poison-Sumac

SELECTED TECHNICAL REPORTS


The purpose of this contract was to determine whether individuals in California who were sensitive to poison oak could be desensitized by use of the purified active principle of poison oak, urushiol.


Poisonous plants are a major cause of economic loss to the livestock industry. Each year these plants adversely affect 3-5 percent of the cattle, sheep, and horses that graze the western range.


This document is a description of the keyterms used in the poisonous plant file of TOXLINE. Seven types of keyterms are used including geographic location, plant species, plant part, animal species affected, and disease produced.

**Available in the microform collection, Science Reading Room**
Waller, Coy W., and others. Toxicology of poison oak (Rhus toxicodendron) and poison ivy (Rhus radicans) extracts in the rat. Prepared for Food and Drug Administration. University, Miss., University of Mississippi, Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, June 1974. 167 p. PB239 665**

The objective of this study was to determine the toxicity of extracts of poison ivy, poison oak, and a polyethylene glycol vehicle (Carbowax R) when given orally to rats.

**SELECTED MATERIALS** available in the Science Reading Room pamphlet boxes include:


**ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

American Association of Poison Control Centers
c/o Dr. Ted Tong
Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center
Health Sciences Center, Room 3204K
1501 North Campbell
Tucson, Arizona 85725
Telephone: (602) 626-7899

International Biotoxicological Center (IBC)
World Life Research Institute
23000 Grand Terrace Road
Colton, California 92324
Telephone: (714) 825-4773

Poisonous Plants Research Laboratory
Agricultural Research Service, USDA
1150 East 14th North
Logan, Utah 84321
Telephone: (801) 752-2941