

## TOPIC : POISONOUS PLANTS

GUEST SPEAKER : **Greg Brown**

MALENY GARDEN CLUB MEETING : 24 April 2018

There is often a misapprehension that common garden plants are safe, but nearly every plant in your yard has something it uses to defend itself. Plants have evolved protection mechanisms for survival .... each year there are countless pet and stock deaths attributed to the eating of certain plants. Native animals don't usually succumb to eating poisonous plants unless they have been newly introduced.

Greg is presently developing a database re plants and poisons .... The Poisonous Plant Detective .... to document the plant species and toxicity ... and who/what might be at risk. Some of the reactions to toxic plants include lethargy, eye irritations, skin irritations, high temperature, tremors, seizures, stomach irritation, coma and organ failure!

Some of the more common plants of which to be aware ...are listed below

- Agapanthus bulbs, Daffodils, Jonquils (any bulbs may be harmful to children and dogs)
- Passionfruit (unripe fruit may induce vomiting)
- Milky sap plants such as Oleander, Hydrangea
- Almond seeds (contain arsenic) .. plus seeds of loquats, plums, cherries
- Azaleas and Vireyas (leaves)
- Day Lilies (underground stems are poisonous to people, cats, cows)
- Duranta ... Sheena's Gold/Geisha Girl ( berries kill dogs each year in Brisbane)
- Brunfelsia (seeds and pods)
- Onions / Garlic (dogs can't metabolise the chemical)
- Clivia
- Cyclamen (people, cats, dogs at risk .... ruminants such as cows, not affected)
- Mint (flowers have particularly adverse effect on dogs)
- Lilies (very toxic to cats)
- Avocados / Avocado seeds (toxic to horses)
- Avocado fruit ( toxic to birds)
- Grapes (chemical in grapes/raisins/sultanas etc toxic to dogs)
- Macadamia nuts (poisonous to some dogs)
- Wandering Jew (causes dermatitis)
- Mushrooms ( Vets claim that many dog deaths are attributed to eating of mushrooms)
- Cycad (especially fruit - toxic to every animal including us!)
- Blackbean seeds (toxic to people and stock)
- Bracken Fern
- Angel's Trumpet, Rhubarb, Thorn Apples, Lantana, White Cedar, Camphor Laurel, Callitris, Daphne, Cosmos ..... and MANY MORE