Healthy Habitat for Schools **Fact Sheet 4**

What not to plant in your school yard

There are many plants that are poisonous if eaten by humans or animals and so are not suitable for the school yard.

Toxic native species of Australia belong to about 70 of the 200 plant families. The native plant groups that are particularly toxic include the legumes (*Fabaceae*, *Mimosaceae*), the nightshades and tobaccos (*Solanaceae*), the spurges (*Euphorbiaceae*), the grasses (*Poaceae*), the cycads (*Cycadaceae*, *Zamiaceae*), the saltbushes (*Chenopodiaceae*), the riceflowers (*Thymelaeaceae*) and the buttercups (*Ranunculaceae*).

Here is a list of some poisonous native Australian plants that should be avoided on your school grounds:

Common Name	Scientific Name
Blue flax lily	*Dianella revoluta*
Bluebush pea	*Crotalaria eremea* ssp. *eremea*
Bottle trees	*Brachychiton rupestris*
Bracken	*Pteridium esculentum*
Bracken fern	*Pteridium revolutum*
Buttercup	*Ranunculus* species
Butterfly flag	*Diplarrena moraea*

Common Name	Scientific Name
Byfield fern	*Bowenia serrulata*
Caustic vine	*Sarcostemma brevipedicellatum* - formerly *S. australe*
Chillagoe horse poison	*Crotalaria aridicola*
Crab's eye	*Abrus precatorius*
Darling peas	*Swainsona* species
Ellangowan poison bush	*Myoporum deserti*
Finger cherry	*Rhodomyrtus macrocarpa*
Flame tree	*Brachychiton acerifolius*
Flaxweeds	*Pimelea* species
Foxgloves	*Digitalis purpurea*
Grass trees	*Xanthorrhoea* species
Grey nicker-nut	*Caesalpinia bonduc*
Groundsel or fireweed	*Senecio lautus*
Idiot fruit	*Idiospermum australiense*
Mapoon or ada-a	*Morinda reticulata*
Milky pine	*Alstonia scholaris*
Morgan flower	*Morgania floribunda*
Mulga or rock fern	*Cheilanthes sieberi*
Nardoo fern	*Marsilea drummondii*
Native leek	*Bulbine bulbosa*
Native tobaccos	*Nicotiana* species
Nodding blue lily or blind grass	*Stypandra glauca* - known as *S.imbricata* and *S.grandiflora*

Common Name	Scientific Name
Oleander	*Nerium oleander*
Pink rice flower	*Pimelea ferruginea*
Plover daisy or flat billy buttons	*Ixiolaena brevicompta*
Rattlepods	*Crotalaria* species
Selenium weed	*Neptunia amplexicaulis*
Sticky tail flower	*Anthocercis viscosa*
Thargomindah nightshade	*Solanum sturtianum*
Trefoil rattlepod	*Crotalaria medicaginea*
Waxflower	*Hoya australis*
Weir vine	*Ipomoea* sp. aff. *Calobra*
White cedar	*Melia azedarach* var. *australasica*
Wild parsnips	*Trachymene ochracea, T. cyanantha* and *T.glaucifolia*
Woolly waterlily or frogsmouth	*Philydrum lanuginosum*
Yellow tail flower	*Anthocercis littorea*

Reference:

Dr Ross McKenzie, 1997, *Australian Native Poisonous Plants*, Australian Native Plant Society, viewed July 2011, http://anpsa.org.au/APOL7/sep97-4.html