

## PENCIL PLANT

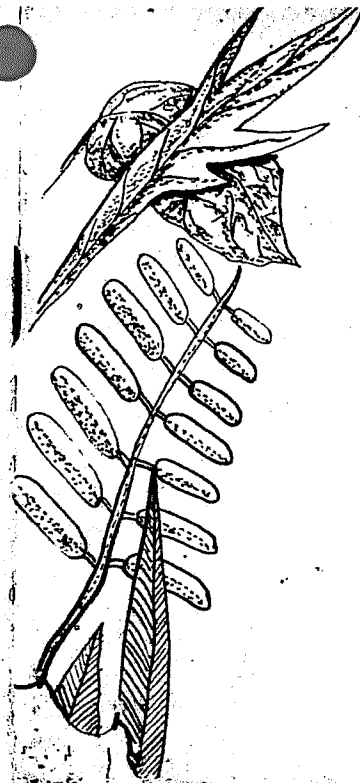
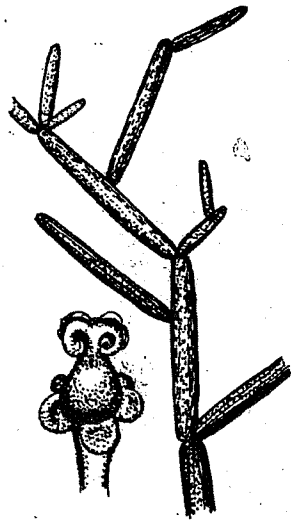
*Euphorbia tirucalli* L.

**DESCRIPTION:** A large shrub, frequently used as a small potted plant. Composed of a series of dull green, pencil-like stems. No leaves, or few, small and narrow. Inconspicuous flowers, at forks of small branches.

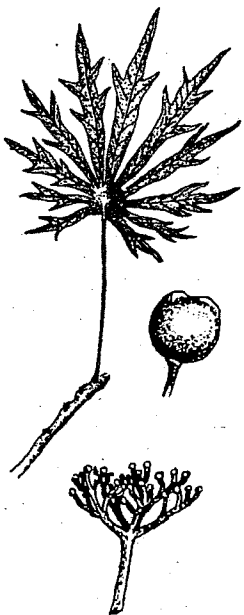
**POISONOUS PARTS:** All parts of the plant contain a white milky sap which is highly caustic and can produce a severe burn. It is extremely hazardous in contact with the eye.

**SYMPTOMS:** Burning, searing sensation where sap has touched.

**WHAT TO DO:** Wash skin immediately with water. If sap is in eye, flush with clean water and call doctor right away.



# COMMON POISONOUS PLANTS OF HAWAII



## CORAL PLANT

*Jatropha multifida* L.

**DESCRIPTION:** A smooth ornamental shrub with milky juice. Five to ten feet high. Flowers are red and branch in clusters like one type of coral. Fruit is oval-shaped, green or yellow when ripe, about one inch long and contains two or three seeds.

**POISONOUS PARTS:** Seeds. Very pleasant to taste and conducive to eating more. Moderately toxic, depending on amount.

**SYMPTOMS:** Vomiting and frequent bowel movements.

**WHAT TO DO:** Do NOT stop the vomiting. CALL YOUR DOCTOR.



## WARNING

Many plants contain highly dangerous poisons. More than 80 varieties growing in Hawaii have been classified as poisonous. It is not possible to list all of them in this pamphlet. Those described are the more common plants which have frequently been the source of poisoning.

### BASIC RULES TO FOLLOW:

NEVER EAT OR TASTE ANY STRANGE FRUIT, SEED, LEAF, FLOWER, OR ROOT.

BE CAUTIOUS OF CONTACT WITH ANY PLANT YOU DO NOT KNOW, PARTICULARLY THOSE WITH

*hairy leaves.*

*milky juice or sap.*

*thorny leaves, fruit or seed pods.*

### IF YOU THINK SOMEONE HAS BEEN POISONED BY A PLANT, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Call your physician.
2. Identify the plant, if possible, to aid in the selection of an antidote. Take leaf, seed, or other parts of plant with you to the doctor.
3. Tell your doctor the person's symptoms, name of the plant, and the amount eaten.

## OLEANDER ('OLIWA)

*Nerium oleander* L.

DESCRIPTION: A common ornamental shrub with long, narrow, dull, evergreen leaves four to eight inches long. Large, heavy heads of scented flowers, ranging in color from white to crimson. Paired pod-like cylindrical fruits. Tiny seeds with wings.

POISONOUS PARTS: All parts of the plant are highly poisonous, including the wood, which has been known to poison food cooked with it.

SYMPTOMS: Nausea, vomiting, colic, dizziness, drowsiness, irregular heart action, bloody diarrhea, unconsciousness, respiratory paralysis, and death.

WHAT TO DO: Early cases should be made to vomit and given a strong laxative. CALL YOUR DOCTOR.



## BE-STILL TREE, YELLOW OLEANDER (NOHO-MALIE)

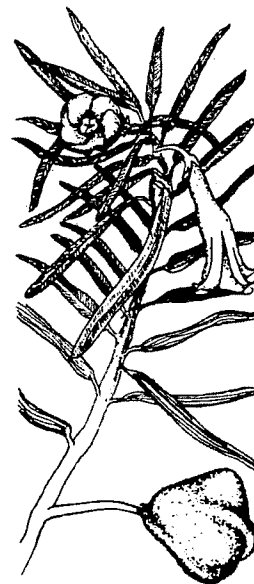
*Thevetia peruviana* (Pers.) K. Schum.

DESCRIPTION: Attractive, ever-blooming shrub or small tree with shiny, dark green, narrow leaves and yellow funnel-shaped flowers with a mild fragrance. One form has salmon-colored flowers. The fruits are small, irregularly-shaped apples about an inch in diameter and contain two large oily seeds.

POISONOUS PARTS: The BE-STILL TREE is one of the most frequent causes of fatal or dangerous poisoning. All parts of the plant are poisonous and HIGHLY TOXIC. Children have been poisoned from using sticks of this wood for roasting hot dogs or marshmallows.

SYMPTOMS: Slow (later irregular) pulse, vomiting, shock, and death.

WHAT TO DO: Early cases should be made to vomit and given a strong laxative. CALL YOUR DOCTOR.



**JIMSON WEED, THORN APPLE**  
(KIKANIA, LA'AU-HANO)

*Datura stramonium* L.

**DESCRIPTION:** A green-stemmed annual with large leaves irregularly cut and toothed. Leaves are dark green above and light green below. Flowers are white to violet, trumpet-shaped, from two to four inches long and about two inches across at the petals. The seed pods are spiny.

**POISONOUS PARTS:** All parts of the plant are poisonous and HIGHLY TOXIC.

**SYMPTOMS:** Headache, nausea, vertigo, extreme thirst, dry burning sensation in the skin, dilated pupils, loss of sight and voluntary motion; in extreme cases mania, convulsion, and death.

**WHAT TO DO:** Early cases should be made to vomit. CALL YOUR DOCTOR.



**CASTOR BEAN PLANT (PA'AILA)**

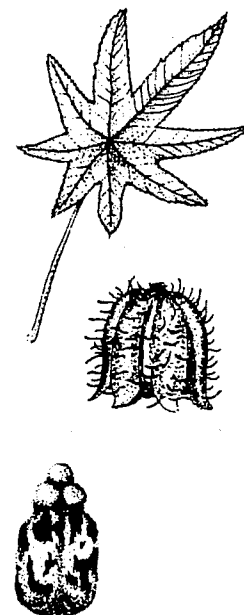
*Ricinus communis* L.

**DESCRIPTION:** A weed ranging in size from three to thirty feet. The large, handsome leaves have six to eleven broad-pointed lobes with toothed edges. Stems are green or red and hollow. Seed cases are prickly or smooth, about one inch long and contain three rounded, shiny, black, gray, or brown-marked seeds.

**POISONOUS PARTS:** The seeds. The poison is HIGHLY TOXIC when introduced to the blood stream through a cut or scratch. Poisonings have occurred from stringing the seeds for leis. Severe symptoms have also resulted from eating them.

**SYMPTOMS:** Loss of appetite for several days. Then vomiting and frequent bowel movements begin. Unusual allergic reactions may occur, causing shock. Delirium, collapse, and death may result from even a small amount of this violent poison.

**WHAT TO DO:** CALL YOUR DOCTOR.



**APPLE OF SODOM, THORNY POPOLO**

(POPOLO KIKANIA)

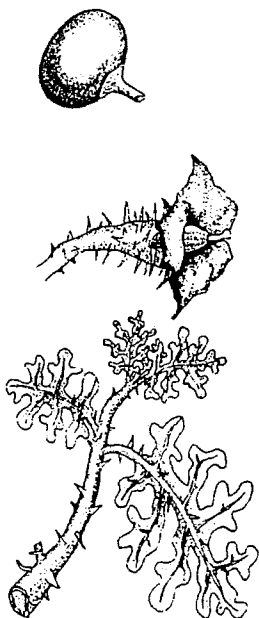
*Solanum sodomium* L.

**DESCRIPTION:** A common weed often found in dry, upland pastures or along roadsides. The shrub is low and straggling, with thorny leaves and small five-petaled blue flowers. The fruits are round, hard, pale yellow, somewhat resembling tomatoes. They are bitter and full of seeds.

**POISONOUS PARTS:** All parts are poisonous and HIGHLY TOXIC.

**SYMPTOMS:** Excitement, tremors, paralysis, collapse, a remarkable fall in temperature, and death in deep coma.

**WHAT TO DO:** CALL YOUR DOCTOR.



**BLACK-EYED SUSAN, CRAB'S EYE, ROSARY PEA, OR JEQUIRITY BEAN**

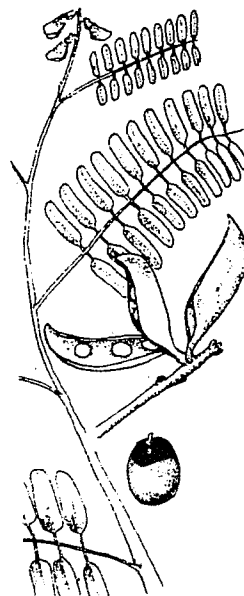
*Abrus precatorius* L.

**DESCRIPTION:** A smooth, slender, branching vine best known for its seeds. The seeds are scarlet with a black patch, shiny and rounded. The leaves have seven to twelve pairs of oblong leaflets, each about a half inch long. Small pink or lavender flowers are crowded in short clusters.

**POISONOUS PARTS:** The seeds. HIGHLY TOXIC if eaten raw or inserted under the skin. (One seed is enough to kill.)

**SYMPTOMS:** Nausea, vomiting, frequent bowel movements, weakness, cold sweat, colic, weak and fast pulse, and trembling of the hands.

**WHAT TO DO:** CALL YOUR DOCTOR.



### STAR-OF-BETHLEHEM (PUA-HOKU)

*Hippobroma longiflora* (L.) G. Don

**DESCRIPTION:** An herb one to two feet high with few or no branches, found at low altitudes in Hawaii. White, star-like erect flowers. Narrow, stemless leaves two to six inches long with many-pointed, toothed lobes. The fruit is a nodding capsule about a half inch long.

**POISONOUS PARTS:** The juice burns and is **HIGHLY TOXIC**. Can cause blindness if it gets into the eyes.

**SYMPTOMS:** Burning and local irritation where juice has touched.

**WHAT TO DO:** CALL YOUR DOCTOR.



### PHYSIC NUT

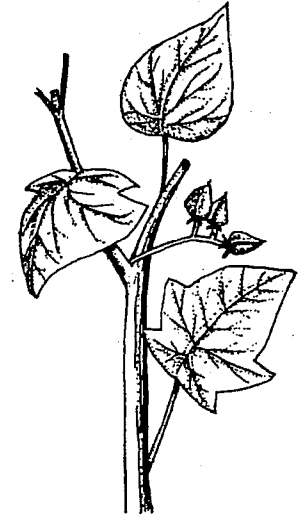
*Jatropha curcas* L.

**DESCRIPTION:** A smooth shrub or small tree with milky juice and spongy wood. It has dark green leaves three to seven inches long, resembling those of the kukui. The plant bears many small greenish flowers from which develop inch-long yellow, fleshy capsules. Each contains two to three black seeds which are pleasant tasting but poisonous.

**POISONOUS PARTS:** Seeds are moderately toxic. The threat lies in the very pleasant taste, which causes persons who eat one to want more.

**SYMPTOMS:** Violent bowel movements and vomiting, occasionally resulting in shock.

**WHAT TO DO:** Do NOT stop the vomiting. CALL YOUR DOCTOR.



### CROWN FLOWER (PUA KALAUNU)

*Calotropis gigantea* (L.) R. Br.

**DESCRIPTION:** A large shrub sometimes reaching a height of 15 feet. Has thick downy branches. White or lavender flowers about 1½ inches in diameter have five curled-back petals and a prominent symmetrical crown. Leaves are pale green, nearly stemless, three to ten inches long, indented at base and woolly underneath.

**POISONOUS PARTS:** The milky juice may irritate or burn the skin or eyes and is **EXTREMELY TOXIC** in large doses.

**SYMPTOMS:** Violent bowel movements and vomiting. Irritation of part where juice has touched, especially the eyes.

**WHAT TO DO:** CALL YOUR DOCTOR.



### POINSETTIA

*Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd

**DESCRIPTION:** The Christmas flower. A shrub two to ten feet high, having rich green, long-stemmed leaves three to seven inches long. The leaves terminating the stem are brilliant red or, on some varieties, pink or white. The shrub has milky juice. The true flowers, greenish in color, form in bunches at the center of the brightly-colored leaves and are small and inconspicuous.

**POISONOUS PARTS:** Milky juice and leaves are moderately toxic.

**SYMPTOMS:** Vomiting and frequent bowel movements. In cases of large dosage, delirium and death.

**WHAT TO DO:** Treat for shock. CALL YOUR DOCTOR.

