



Possum-Proof Plants

The following plants are reportedly unpalatable or toxic to possums:

Cerastium tomentosum

Great in hanging baskets, this evergreen, drought tolerant, fast growing ground cover spreads to 60cm in a sunny well drained position. It has furry silver green leaves with masses of white flowers living up to the common name 'snow in summer'. Grows well under roses, and looks great planted with succulents.

Hedera helix

'English ivy' is a woody, evergreen, climbing or creeping vine which attaches to the bark of trees, brickwork, and other surfaces. Leaves are green and lush. The plant is toxic to humans if large amounts are eaten, and skin irritation can occur. Often considered a weed, it is a useful ground cover in a large area where little else will grow. Good in hanging baskets in a shady spot. The smaller-leaved varieties eg. Pitsburg are the best choice for most gardens.

Soleirolia solierolii

'Baby's tears', or 'mind your own business', makes an attractive and maintenance-free alternative to grass as ground cover in moist shady areas. The masses of tiny leaves clothe slender spreading stems that root as they run, forming a dense deep-pile carpet. Quick to establish, it survives periodic dry spells and recovers quickly afterwards

Ceanothus

These medium sized beautiful and hardy shrubs are grown for their fluffy clusters of magnificent blue flowers in spring. They should be planted in light, well-drained soil in a sunny site. They are drought tolerant once established. Lower growing varieties are available.

Chaenomeles speciosa

This drought tolerant deciduous, multi-stemmed shrub grows 8 - 10ft with equal or greater spread. The 'Flowering Quince' has a very dense jumble of spiny branches and has white, pink or red flowers in late winter / early spring. They make a good bonsai specimen.

Hibiscus syriacus

The flowers on this deciduous woody shrub are white, pink or purple and are long flowering. Its leaves don't come out until late spring, causing false alarms in gardeners who think their plants may have died. It grows to 2 - 4m in moist but well drained soil. It prefers a sunny position and is drought tolerant.

Hydrangea macrophylla

The most commonly grown hydrangeas are a must have shrub for shade - planted in the ground or pots. Flowers are mainly blue, pink or white and are ball shaped or lacecap form. You can change the colour of the flowers by altering the pH - pink in alkaline soil, blue in acidic. Pinks and blues can be intensified using chemicals resulting in mauve, purple and red blooms. They like a fair amount of water until established.

Nerium oleander

This fast growing evergreen shrub can reach up to 6m tall but is usually seen trimmed 2-3m. It is a tough, versatile plant with showy summertime flowers in white, red, pink, salmon and light yellow. They prefer a sunny position and are very drought tolerant.

Viburnum opulus 'Sterile'

Easy to grow in sun to semi - shade they will adapt to a wide range of conditions. This deciduous shrub has lush light green leaves in spring / summer with some autumn colour. The masses of pure white snowball-like flower clusters offer a very showy display in spring. It is an old-fashioned favourite.

Acanthus mollis

Evergreen, soft wooded perennial which grows in an upright clump to approx 1m x 1m. The dark green, glossy leaves are lobed and toothed. Purple and white flowers appear on tall, erect spikes from November to January. This plant has weed potential, so should be planted where it can spread. A great 'filler' in a large garden.

Agapanthus praecox

Evergreen clumping plant growing to 1m tall, with white or blue flowers from mid to late summer. Extremely drought hardy, this plant is easy to grow and does well even in the poorest of soils. Prefers sun but will grow in shade, however it won't flower as well. Dwarf forms also available growing 30 - 60cm.

Bergenia cordifolia

Perennial growing approx 30cm high and spreads to 1m. White or pink flowers in winter, it is excellent as a ground cover, rock garden or border plant. It is easy to grow, and will tolerate a wide range of conditions, however it prefers semi-shade and moist, rich humus soil. Protect from snails and slugs.

Zantedeschia aethiopica

These perennials produce glossy foliage shooting like arrows from the base, then from spring to mid-summer, the beautiful, pure white Arum Lily blooms become a sparkling attraction. These hardy, striking architectural plants look best grown beside water. While they enjoy damp soil, they will survive with little water. A dwarf white form and green flowering form are available.

Datura Brugmansia

'Angels Trumpets' is an evergreen tall shrub with pendulous heavily perfumed flowers which are poisonous to possums. They need a sheltered position.



Aloe vera

Great in pots, Aloe can be brought inside. When planted outdoors, it prefers full sun to semi- shade, and should be protected from frost. This succulent is very drought tolerant. Its leaves are used extensively for medicinal purposes.