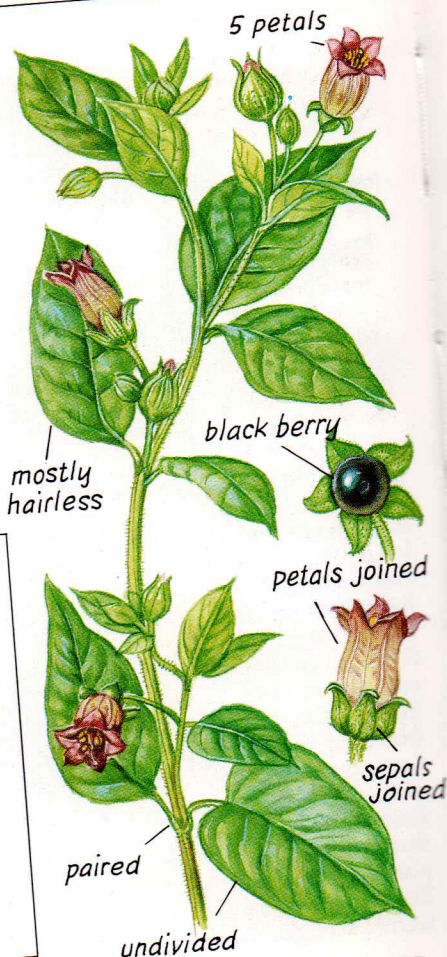
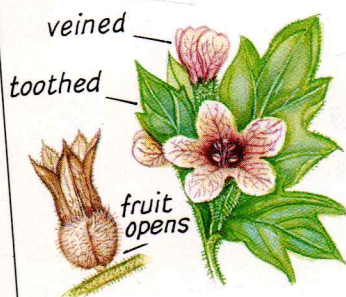


Deadly Nightshade *Atropa belladonna*

A powerful narcotic plant; even a few berries can prove fatal. It has bushy stems, rather dull purple flowers, and black, cherry-like fruits. Although toxic, Deadly Nightshade has long been cultivated for medicinal purposes. An alkaloid extract from the plant is used in hospitals to dilate the pupil of the eye. *Status*: native in south, naturalized in north and Ireland; scattered, absent from most of north. *Similar species*: Henbane is stickily hairy; the yellow flowers, veined purple are clustered in long heads and each capsule is hidden within its sepal-tube. It is also poisonous but used medicinally.

Henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*)



DEADLY NIGHTSHADE	
Type	perennial
Height	50–150cm, rarely 200cm
Habitat	woods, scrub, hedges; lime-rich soils
Flowering	June–August
STEMS AND LEAVES	
Stem	upright, many-branched
Root	fibrous
Hairs	absent or short, gland-tipped
Stipules	absent
Leaves	mostly on alternate sides of stem, 25–200mm, oval, pointed, edge unbroken, base wedge-shaped
Leaf-stalk	shorter than blade

FLOWERS	
Position	solitary, from leaf-base
Bracts	absent
Type	♀
Size	25–30mm
Colour	violet or greenish
Stalk	shorter than flower, drooping
Sepals	5, 10–15mm, joined, bell-shaped, spreading in fruit
Petals	5, 25–30mm, equal, joined into broad tube
Stamens	5, shorter than petals
Stigma	1, tip swollen, style long
Ovary	1, 2-celled
FRUIT	
Type	1, globular berry, glossy, black
Size	15–20mm
Seeds	many, 1.5–2mm, egg-shaped

Solanum dulcamara Bittersweet

This woody plant threads its way through hedgerows or clammers over plants and rocks. Related to both Tomato and Potato, the flowers similarly have five petals curved back, but of purple with contrasting yellow stamens. The red berries are far less poisonous than those of Deadly Nightshade. *Status*: native; common, most of area. *Similar species*: related species are annual, with white flowers and almost globular fruits. Black Nightshade has black or green fruits; those of Hairy Nightshade are yellow, orange or red; Green Nightshade has green or rarely black fruits, partly hidden by the enlarged sepals.

1 Black Nightshade (*S. nigrum*);
2 Green Nightshade (*S. sarrachoides*); 3 Hairy Nightshade (*S. luteum*)



BITTERSWEET	
Type	perennial
Height	30–200cm
Habitat	hedges, woods, rocks, shingle, waste ground
Flowering	June–September
STEMS AND LEAVES	
Stem	trailing or clambering, woody below
Root	woody stock
Hairs	absent or sometimes dense
Stipules	absent
Leaves	most on alternate sides of stem, 30–90mm, oval, often 1–4 lobes at base, pointed, edge unbroken
Leaf-stalk	shorter than blade
FLOWERS	
Position	10–25 in stalked, branched cluster opposite leaf-base

Bracts	absent
Type	♀
Size	10–15mm
Colour	purple, rarely about equal
Stalk	about equal to tube
Sepals	5, 2–3mm, joined into tube
Petals	5, 4–7mm, equal, lobes spear-back
Stamens	5, protruding
Stigma	1, style long
Ovary	1, 2-celled
FRUIT	
Type	1, berry, egg-shaped
Size	10–15mm
Seeds	many, 1.7–