

## Important Key Points About Jimson Weed:

- Poisonings usually occur in late summer to early fall
- The Internet can provide children with misleading information about the toxic effects of Jimson Weed
- All parts of the plant are poisonous
- Eating the seeds, smoking the leaves, or ingesting any part of the plant is dangerous
- Poisonings often occur in groups
- Symptoms of poisoning include: dilated pupils, dry mouth, urinary retention, rapid heart rate, increased or decreased blood pressure, jerky movements, increased body temperature, seizure, and delirium with hallucinations



**1-800-222-1222**  
Statewide

Local: (304) 348-4211

[www.wvpoisoncenter.org](http://www.wvpoisoncenter.org)



# What Parents Should Know About Jimson Weed



## Jimson weed is also known as:

*Datura Stramonium*, thornapple, stinkweed, Jamestown-weed, Stramonium, Datura, Devil's Apple, Devil's Trumpet, Apple of Peru, Mad Apple, and Tolache

## History of Jimson Weed:

It is believed that the name Jimson Weed is derived from its use in 1676 by British troops in the Jamestown, Virginia settlement. The soldiers mistakenly prepared a boiled salad from the plant. At that time the plant was referred to as Jamestown Weed. The name has evolved over the years to Jimson Weed.

## What does Jimson Weed look like?

In two to three months this plant can grow to 2 or 3 feet in height and about the same in width. Jimson Weed has large, long-stalked, heart-shaped leaves with wavy margins and white, tube-shaped flowers that are followed by large, egg-shaped, spiny fruits filled with black, kidney-shaped seeds.

## Where does Jimson Weed grow?

Jimson Weed grows wild as a weed in most parts of the U.S. Jimson grows wild in open areas along roads, in pastures, fields, and around waste piles. Jimson Weed ranges from North to South America.

## Why is Jimson Weed dangerous?

Poisoning from Jimson Weed results in a variety of symptoms including: dilated pupils, dry mouth, urinary retention, rapid heart rate, increased or decreased blood pressure, jerky movements, increased body temperature, seizures, and delirium with hallucinations. As a result of the hallucinations, those poisoned with Jimson Weed may place themselves in dangerous situations.

## What part of the plant is toxic?

All parts of the plant have been found to be toxic. This includes the leaves, seeds, roots, and stems.

## How is Jimson Weed abused?

Jimson is misused most often by ingestion of seeds, drinking a tea made from the leaves, or smoking cigarettes made from the plant.



## How are these poisonings treated?

Because Jimson Weed poisonings have the potential to cause serious harm, most require evaluation in an emergency department. Hospitalization is often required.

## Is there a particular time of year that poisonings occur more often?

The plant is at its peak during late summer to early fall. At this time plants that were concealing Jimson Weed may die and make the poisonous plant more visible. This is when the majority of poisonings occur.

## Where do children/teenagers hear about Jimson Weed?

Information on Jimson Weed is available on the Internet. Unfortunately the information is misleading about the safety of Jimson Weed. Information about the poisonous effects is often overlooked. Many web sites even promote the misuse of this plant and some advertise products for sale. Children may also hear about the poison from peers. It is common for Jimson Weed poisonings to involve several children.



## What should I tell my child/teenager about Jimson Weed?

Talk with your child/teenager about the dangers of this plant. Explain that Jimson Weed is a poison and can cause serious injury.

Remind your child/teenager that they should not take anything offered to them to make them "high" or alter their mood. Remind them that even plants can be dangerous.