

**Topic: Plants** – potential dangers posed by fauna and flora

**Year 1 and 2**

**Linked to Science**

What I should know

**Year 1**

- Plants can grow.
- Name common insects.

Vocabulary

- **Bees, hornets and wasps** – a reaction to a sting without immediate medical attention may result in death.



- **Stinging nettle** – this can create a rash and itchy skin. A common remedy is to rub a dock leaf over the infected area.
- **Dock leaf** – helps to relieve a nettle sting because rubbing vigorously releases moist sap from the leaves which has a cooling, soothing effect on the skin.
- **Thorns** – without vaccination you can die from tetanus, an infection which can be transferred from a thorn scratch.
- **Hay fever** – caused by an allergic response to outdoor or indoor allergens, such as pollen, dust mites, or tiny flecks of skin and saliva shed by cats, dogs, and other animals with fur or feathers (pet dander).
- **Bulbs** – for example, daffodils, hyacinths and narcissus. If eaten these will cause irritation and vomiting/diarrhoea and can be fatal.
- **Celandine and buttercup** – both of these flowers are yellow. Celandine is found on woodland floor, flowering in early spring and buttercup flowers throughout spring and summer. All parts of these plants are poisonous to eat.
- **Holly** (Ilex Aquifolium) – smooth and often spiky evergreen leaves and red berries in the winter and white/green flowers in late autumn. The berries are poisonous if eaten.
- **Hairy caterpillars** – during the warmer months, these caterpillars can release their tiny hairs which are harmful, as they can cause rashes, asthma attacks, and throat irritations.



What will I know

- Name a few common poisonous plants that may be found at Forest School.
- The effect of some poisonous plants.
- Some plants are harmful if eaten and others are harmful if handled.
- Understand the purpose of different insects and the effects of these.

What I should know

**Year 2**

- The names of some common garden plants (e.g., carnation, rose) and the names of some common wild plants (e.g., daisy, dandelion, nettle).
- Know the difference between bees and wasps and their purpose.

**STINGING NETTLE VENOM**  
Stinging nettles are covered in tiny yellow barbed hairs. When you brush against them, you break the fragile silica tip of the hair, and they then act like a needle, piercing the skin, and causing the nettle's venom to be injected.

**NETTLE STING REMEDIES**  
Dock leaves are an old-fashioned nettle sting remedy. Some research says that dock leaf is effective, and it neutralises the acidic nettle venom. It's also claimed the dock leaves contain a natural antihistamine, there is no evidence of this. There is some evidence it could contain a chemical that reduces the effect of serotonin in the venom.

**ANTIHISTAMINES**  
Antihistamines counter the action of histamine, blocking the receptors that it usually binds to. Histamine is the only drug component, but by preventing it from the information and around the pain from the sting can be reduced. This is likely the most effective remedy. Typical over-the-counter medications can also help prevent histamine's effects.

**OTHER REMEDIES**  
Calamine lotion is often claimed to help, and as it has some protective (soothing) effects, it may provide mild relief. However, it may provide mild relief. However, it may provide mild relief. However, it may provide mild relief. However, it may provide mild relief.

**DO**

- put Vaseline around your nostrils to trap pollen
- wear wraparound sunglasses to stop pollen getting into your eyes
- shower and change your clothes after you've been outside to wash pollen off
- stay indoors whenever possible
- keep windows and doors shut as much as possible
- vacuum regularly and dust with a damp cloth
- buy a pollen filter for the air vents in your car and a vacuum cleaner with a special HEPA filter

**DON'T**

- cut grass or walk on grass
- spend too much time outside
- smoke or be around smoke - it makes your symptoms worse
- keep fresh flowers in the house
- dry clothes outside - they can catch pollen
- let pets into the house if possible - they can carry pollen indoors

What's next?

- There are many different allergies, intolerances and reactions which can occur when you are unaware of what you are touching or eating.
- There are potential life-threatening dangers posed by plants and animals which can occur.
- Which common plants/animals pose a danger in and around our area.