



Published on *British Columbia Drug and Poison Information Centre (BC DPIC)* (<http://www.dpic.org>)

[Home](#) > [FAQs](#) > [Laburnum](#) > [Printer-friendly PDF](#)

---

# Laburnum

**Article type:**

poison information

**Access:**

public





**Laburnum or golden chain** (*Laburnum anagyroides*, *Laburnum alpinum*): A popular shrub or small tree seen in parks and gardens. Bright yellow flowers hang in drooping clusters about 4-12 inches long. Silky-haired pods contain flat dark-brown seeds. Young children can mistake the seedpods for edible peapods.

**Is it toxic?** All parts contain a compound called cytisine. Ingestion of small amounts of seeds or flowers can cause a stomach upset and salivation. Serious toxicity is rare but can result after ingestion of large amounts.

#### **Health Effects:**

**Ingestion:** Symptoms usually begin within 1 hour but may be delayed if the seeds are swallowed whole. Nausea, vomiting and salivation are common symptoms after ingestion of the seedpods or flowers. Diarrhea and abdominal cramps may also be seen. Ingestion of large amounts may cause drowsiness, headache, confusion and an elevated heart rate.

#### **What to do?**

**Ingestion:** Rinse out mouth and have a glass of water or milk. **Contact the Poison Control Centre.**

Depending on the amount ingested, **referral to a hospital may be recommended.**

**How can I prevent exposure?** Supervise young children when playing outdoors.

**Need more information:** Contact the Poison Control Centre.

© 2010 BC Drug and Poison Information Centre

#### **Keywords:**

plants: cytisine

We are grateful to all the First Nations who have cared for and nurtured the lands and waters around us for all time, including the xʔmʔkʔyʔm (Musqueam), Skʔwxʔwuʔmesh Uʔxwumixw (Squamish Nation), and sʔlʔilwʔtaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation) on whose unceded and ancestral territory our centre is located.

© 2024 BC Drug and Poison Information Centre

All material found on the BC Drug and Poison Information Centre (DPIC) website is provided for informational purposes only. It is *not* meant to replace the expert advice of a healthcare professional such as a physician, pharmacist, nurse or qualified poison specialist. Use of this site is governed and restricted by specific terms of use. Please review the **full terms and conditions** below prior to using the DPIC website. In the event of a poisoning emergency, call your local poison control centre immediately. Portions of this web site are intended for healthcare professionals. Interpretation and application of information may require more detailed explanation than contained herein, particularly regarding any clinical information that is found in or linked to this site. Patients are advised to consult their health care provider regarding diagnosis and treatment, and for assistance in interpreting these materials and applying them in individual cases.

#### **Terms and Conditions**

---

**Source URL (retrieved on 2025-04-01 12:45):** <http://www.dpic.org/faq/laburnum>