

# Anacardiaceae

Members of Anacardiaceae include food plants such as cashews, pistachios, sumac, and mangoes, as well as non-edible plants like poison ivy, poison oak, and smoke bushes.





# Apiaceae

This family includes many edible plants from carrots, celery, and parsnips to herbs and spices like star anise, fennel, dill, parsley, caraway, and coriander.

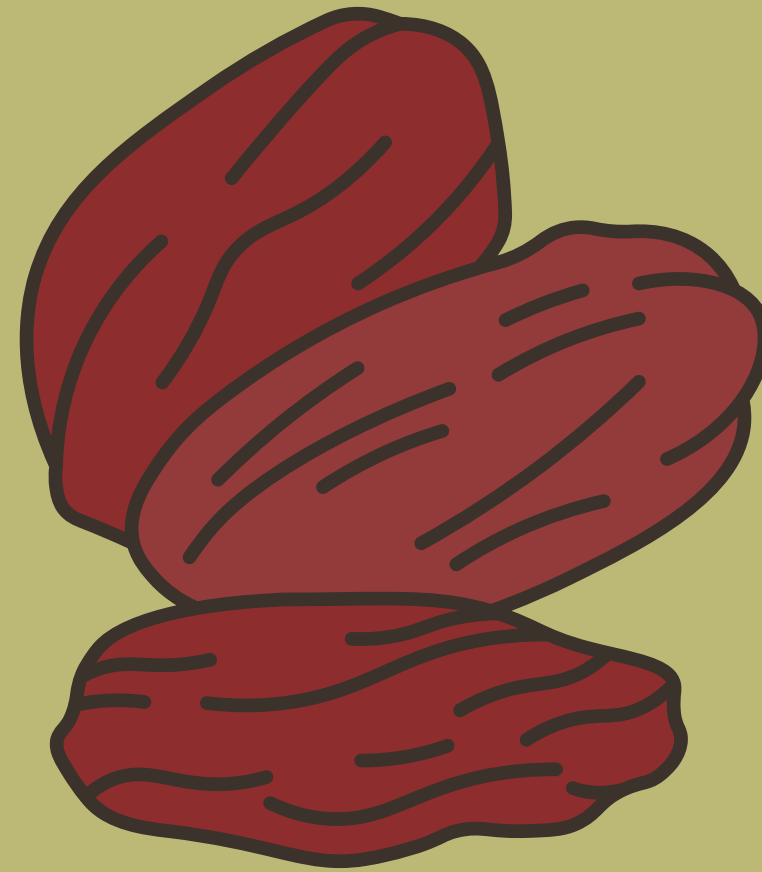
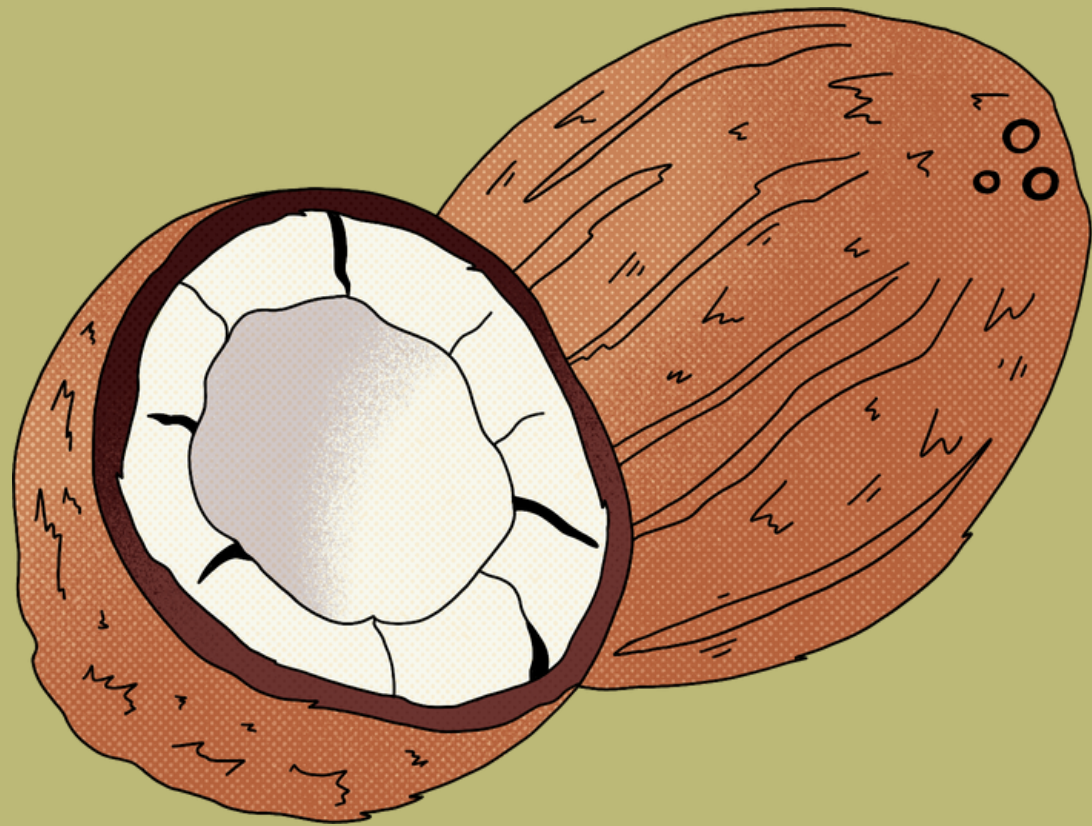
There are also numerous poisonous members of this family, like giant hogweed and water hemlock.





# Areceaceae

The palm family is one of the most widely cultivated. These plants are economically significant sources of food and raw materials from palm oil, coconuts, dates, and sago starch to rattan, carnauba wax, and timber.





# Brassicaceae

Brassicaceae includes the “cruciferous” vegetables – cabbage, kale, broccoli, and cauliflower – as well as white mustard, turnips, and the horseradish.





# Convulvaceae

Many plants in this family are cultivated for ornamental purposes, such as morning glories and moonflowers, but some species are used for food, like water spinach and sweet potatoes!

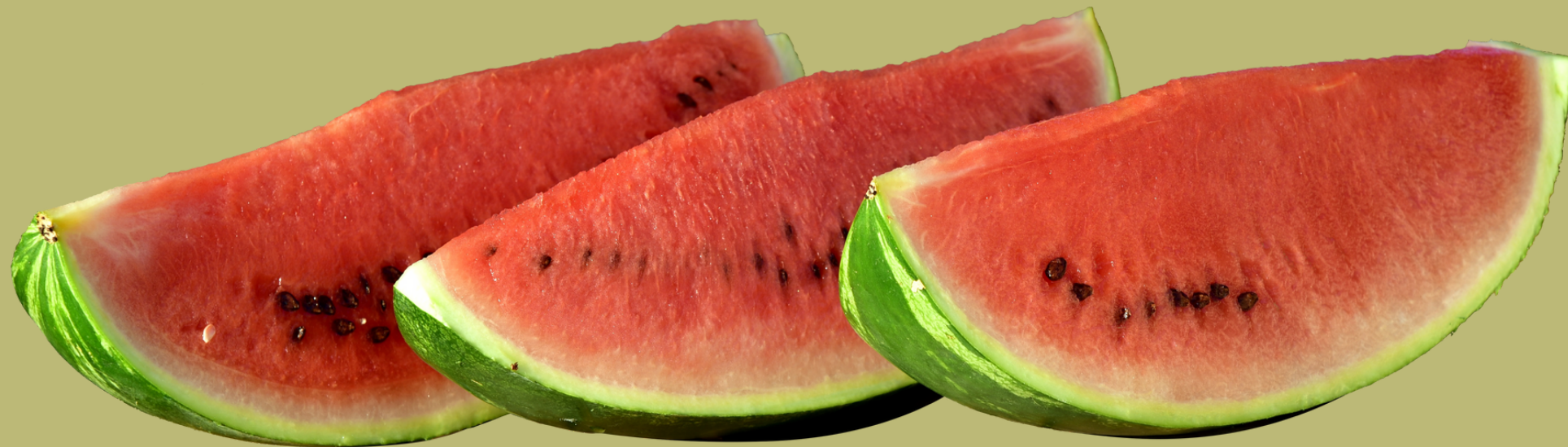


(c) Bob Peterson



# Cucurbitaceae

This family is one of the earliest cultivated for food, and is one of the most significant in terms of species used for food. Members of this family include watermelon, bitter melon, cucumbers, pumpkins, zucchini, and squash.





# Dioscoreaceae

Dioscoreaceae is primarily known for the edible tubers that grow in some species of the genus *Dioscorea* – yams!





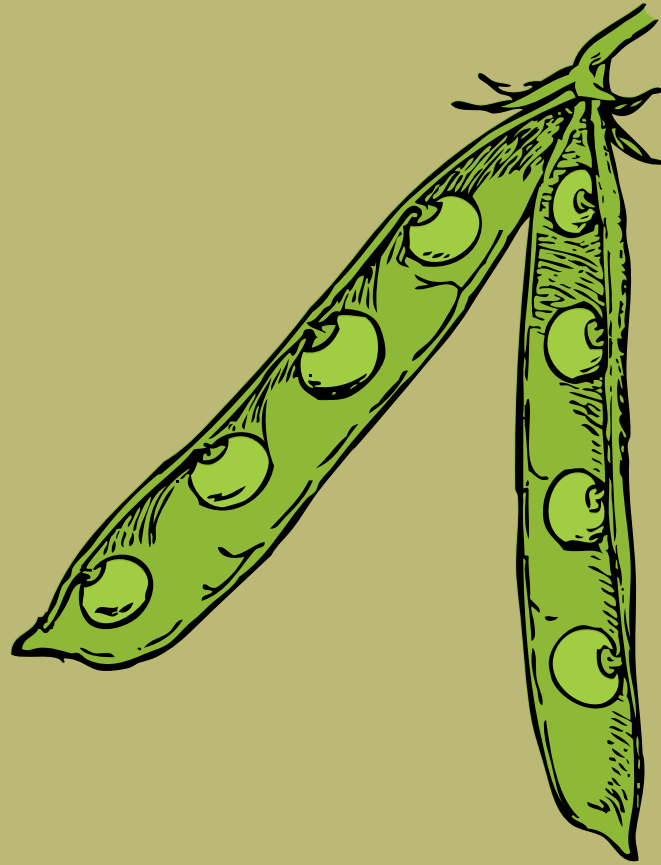


## Euphorbiaceae

Known as the "spurge" family, many of these plants are grown as ornamentals, including poinsettias and the garden croton. Others are grown because they can be made into products, like the rubber tree's natural latex, or the starchy cassava (yuca) plant that is used as a staple food and is the source of tapioca. One of the most prominent members, the castor bean plant (*Ricinus communis*), is highly toxic.

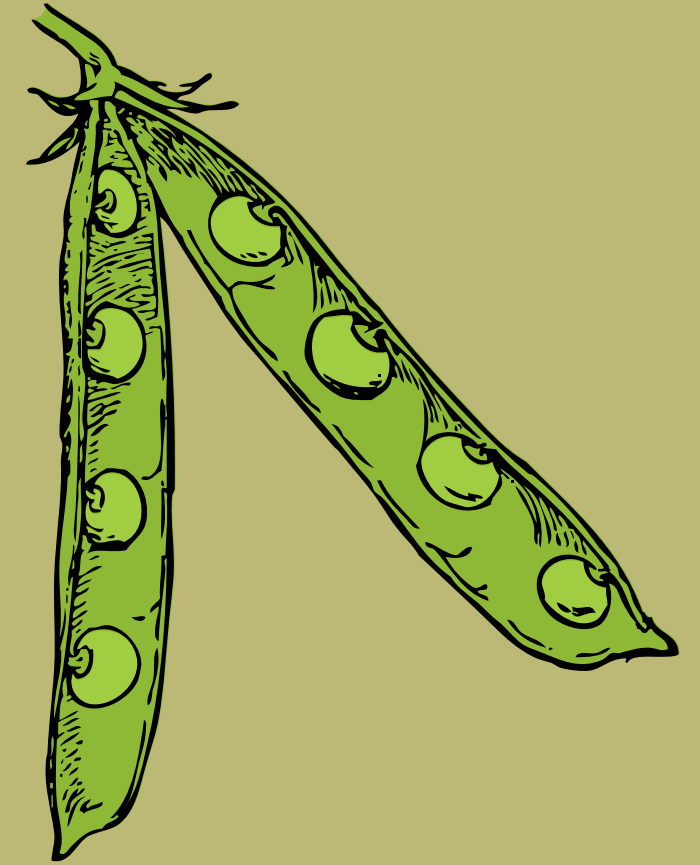






## Fabaceae

The "legume" family has the third largest number of species among the land plants, and many are important food sources! Members of this family include: green beans, lima beans, peas, chickpeas, soybeans, peanuts, carob, jicama, and alfalfa. The sensitive plant Mimosa and highly invasive kudzu are also members of Fabaceae.





# Lamiaceae

The "mint" family includes many culinary herbs like basil, lavender, oregano, sage, and thyme.





# Lauraceae

Many plants in the laurel family are aromatic and used for their essential oils. Bay leaves come from various members of this family, as do spices in the genus *Cinnamomum* (used to make cinnamon!) and avocados.



(c) Randy Everette





# Malvaceae

The mallow family contains ornamental plants like hollyhocks (*Alcea*), mallows (*Malva*) and members of the genus *Hibiscus*. Edible members include cacao, okra, durian, and even fruits from the baobob tree! Cotton is also an economically significant member of Malvaceae.





# Meliaceae

Many species in this family are significant sources of timber, including Spanish cedar (*Cedrela odorata*) and multiple species of mahogany.



(c) David J. Stang



(c) James St. John





# Moraceae

This family contains many well-known edible fruits, including mulberries, breadfruits, jackfruits, and figs!



# Musaceae

Many members of this family are grown as ornamental plants, but the genus *Musa* includes bananas and plantains!





# Myrtaceae

Every species in this family produces essential oils, and thus many members are well-known aromatic and edible plants! Eucalyptus, allspice, and clove are members of this family, as are multiple groups of guavas.



(c) Prof. Chen Hualin





# Oleaceae

The most well-known plant from this family is the olive tree, but members of this family have a variety of uses, from ash trees (*Fraxinus*) used for timber and fragrant jasmine (*Jasminum*) to ornamental plants like Forsythia and lilac.





# Pinaceae



Members of Pinaceae include pine trees as well as hemlocks, spruces, firs, and cedars (in the genus *Cedrus*). Wood from these trees is used for timber, paper products, and musical instruments. Trees in this family are also common ornamental and decorative plants.



# Piperaceae

These pepper plants are often used in traditional medicine and as spices. *Piper nigrum* is the source of many types of peppercorn, including black pepper!



(c) Forest and Kim Starr





# Poaceae

This is the most economically important plant family and source of staple foods around the globe. Sugarcane, sorghum, maize (corn), wheat, oats, barley, and millet are all members of this family. Other grasses, like bamboo, can serve important industrial purposes.





# Rosaceae

This family includes many fruits we eat, like apples, cherries, plums, peaches, and strawberries.





# Rubiaceae

Aside from coffee, plants in the Rubiaceae include the *Gardenia*, *Pentas*, and *Galium* (or bedstraw) genera. Many plants in this family are used for medicinal purposes.





# Rutaceae

*Citrus* is the most important member of this family. Lemons, limes, oranges, and grapefruits are all fruits found in this genus! Many species are aromatic and used for essential oils and perfumes.





# Solanaceae

Many nightshades are poisonous. However, many are also significant food sources for humans! Plants in this family include potatoes, eggplants, tomatoes, and tomatillos as well as the chili and bell peppers of the genus *Capsicum*. Tobacco is also a member of this family, as are petunias, which are common ornamental plants.







## Vitacea

The most important member of this family is the genus *Vitis*, which produces grapes! The ornamental (and toxic) Virginia creeper is also a member of this family.