

**Dry or Partially Dry Water Holes.**—During seasons of drouth dry water holes should be used with caution. The roots of many water plants are poisonous. When water holes become dry such roots often are exposed. Partially dry water holes should be avoided for the reason that stagnant water often contains various types of infectious materials and toxic products from disintegrating plant materials.

**Incidental and Curiosity.**—Occasionally animals consume poisonous plant materials incidentally. For instance, hay may contain a goodly quantity of bracken or crotalaria. Animals eating the hay are incidentally poisoned by the bracken or crotalaria. Hogs grazing on peanuts incidentally consume crotalaria seeds which have fallen to the ground. Many animals have a certain amount of curiosity. They may eat the hydrangea bush at the corner of the house when plenty of desirable food is at hand. Or, they may "eat through the fence" where pastures are always greener on the other side.

**Unknown.**—Occasionally it is impossible to determine why some animals eat poisonous plants. Animals have been known to graze on poisonous species of crotalaria even though sufficient quantities of other forage were available. Many theories have been advanced but none have been definitely proven.

Under normal conditions plant poisoning by certain specific plants usually is seasonal. Examples are cocklebur and atamasco lily. However, instances of poisoning by these plants have been observed where areas infested with them have been plowed or otherwise disturbed. All poisonous plants are potentially dangerous at all seasons of the year and should be so regarded.

Toxicity of seeds, foliage and roots of poisonous plants often varies from year to year. This is apparently due to variations in the seasons during which the plants grow. Concentration of toxins in plants may vary widely from one seedling to another, or between strains of a given species.

## Description of Poisonous Plants

### Tung-Oil Tree, Tung Tree, Tung-Nut

**Description.**—The tung-oil tree (*Aleurites fordii* Hemsl.<sup>1</sup>) is a small-deciduous tree with smooth bark, milky sap, thick twigs

<sup>1</sup> The foliage of *Aleurites montana* (Lour.) Wils., *A. moluccana* Willd., and *A. trisperma* Blanco grown experimentally in this country is less toxic than *A. fordii* in the order named.