

Belladonna, Deadly Nightshade, *Atropa belladonna* L.

from the Solanaceae family (nightshade family)

Belladonna is a perennial, deciduous and herbaceous plant. It grows strongly branched and has pointed, oval leaves. Brown-red, bell-shaped flowers appear from early summer to autumn. The pollinated flowers first develop into green berries, which ripen and turn black. The berries have a diameter of about 1cm, they contain the small seeds. The seeds are mostly spread by birds through endochory (intestinal migration).

Chemical compounds: Tropane alkaloids

Highly toxic

The plant can reach a height of 200 cm and live up to 20 years. Belladonna can be found in damp, shady places.

As deadly nightshade is very poisonous, the plant should not be planted in the garden. As with all poisonous plants with berry fruits, there is an increased risk of poisoning for children, as the coloured fruits often tempt them to snack on them.

