The following is a list of poisonous plants that are either lookalikes of an edible plant or an edible plant which has some poisonous parts.
**JACK IN THE PULPIT**  
*(Arisaema atrorubens)*  
FLOWERS: April - June  
HABITAT: Wooded areas or low bottom thickets  
LOCATION: Statewide

CAUTION: The corm could be harmful if eaten raw. It contains calcium oxalate. Some individuals with sensitive skins can develop a rash from touching the leaves or corm.

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**FLY POISON** *(Amianthium)*  
FLOWERS: May - July  
HABITAT: Acid soils or sandy or cherty ground of low wooded slopes  
LOCATION: Southern Missouri

CAUTION: Might be mistaken for wild onion. A clue is not to pick onion or garlic substitutes in the wild if there is no familiar onion odor associated with the plant.
**BLUE FLAG** (*Iris germanica*)
FLOWERS: March - April
HABITAT: Rock and other gardens, escapee
LOCATION: Statewide in gardens, rare in the wild

CAUTION: The rootstalk could prove fatal if eaten. Care should be taken not to confuse it with Sweet Flag or Calamus.

**WOOD NETTLE** (*Laportea canadensis*)
FLOWERS: Late May - August
HABITAT: Rich low woodland, valleys, along streams
LOCATION: Statewide

CAUTION: Plant has stinging hairs on the leaves and stems which cause itching.
HOPS (*Humulus lupulus*)
FLOWERS: July - August
HABITAT: Waste ground, open, fertile areas, fencerows, shaded thickets, railroads
LOCATION: Statewide except low southeastern Missouri

CAUTION: Leaves cause dermatitis in some people.

FIELD SORREL (*Rumex acetosella*)
FLOWERS: May - September
HABITAT: Sour soils of fallow fields, open waste ground, railroads
LOCATION: Every county

CAUTION: Leaves are cause of dermatitis for sensitive skins. Overdose of the raw plant can cause upset stomach and poisoning.
WILD GINGER (*Asarum canadense*)
FLOWERS: April - May
HABITAT: Rich wooded slopes, valleys, ravine bottoms
LOCATION: Statewide except extreme west and southeast

CAUTION: Leaves have been known to cause a rash on some individuals. Wild ginger's reputed "medicinal properties" suggest moderation in its use.

SOUR DOCK (*Rumex crispus*)
FLOWERS: April - May
HABITAT: Fields, gardens, railroads, waste ground
LOCATION: Every county

CAUTION: Leaves can cause a rash on some people.
SMARTWEED (Polygonum species)
FLOWERS: May - November
HABITAT: Fields, pastures, moist ground
LOCATION: Every county

CAUTION: Leaves have been known to cause a rash on some individuals. Also the juice or sap can cause an unpleasant “smarting” sensation if it comes in contact with the eyes or nostrils.

POKE WEED (Phytolacca americana)
FLOWERS: May - October
HABITAT: Rich soils in waste ground, farm lots, around dwellings, roadsides, railroads
LOCATION: Every county

CAUTION: Roots are poisonous and narcotic, causing vomiting, diarrhea and in some instances death. Green berries and seeds are questionable. Raw greens are toxic.
PAWPAW (*Asimina triloba*)
FLOWERS: March - May
HABITAT: Low bottom woods, wooded slopes along streams, ravines, base of bluffs
LOCATION: Statewide

CAUTION: The fruits are a source of allergic reactions to certain individuals as a result of either eating or touching them.

MAY APPLE (*Podophyllum peltatum*)
FLOWERS: March - May
HABITAT: Low moist or dry open woods or thickets
LOCATION: Every county

CAUTION: All parts of this plant are considered poisonous except the ripe fruits. The rootstock has been known to be a cause of dermatitis from touching and a fatal prostration from eating.
MOONSEED (*Menispermum canadense*)
FLOWERS: May - July
HABITAT: Low moist woods and thickets, ravines, along streams, valleys, fencerows
LOCATION: Every county

CAUTION: Clusters of grape-like fruits can be mistaken for wild grape. Seeds are toxic. The seeds of moonseed are flat and moon-shaped.

BLACK LOCUST (*Robinia pseudo-acacia*)
FLOWERS: May - June
HABITAT: Dry or rocky upland woods, streams, pastures, thickets, waste ground
LOCATION: Statewide

CAUTION: The seeds and bark are poisonous. Flowers are used in fritters.
CHERRY, PLUM, PEACH
(Prunus)

FLOWERS: April - May

HABITAT: Woodland, thickets, along streams, fencerows, cultivated

LOCATION: Statewide

CAUTION: Leaves should not be used in a tea. The wilted leaves develop an acid which has killed animals.
JEWEL WEED, TOUCH ME NOT (*Impatiens*)
FLOWERS: May - October
HABITAT: Rich or damp low woods, swampy ground, along streams
LOCATION: Every county

CAUTION: This is an acknowledged edible by some, a cautioned poison by others. They have proved poisonous to livestock. A wise man is a cautious, live one!

BUCKTHORN (*Rhamnus* species)
FLOWERS: April - June
HABITAT: Cultivation, escaped in woods, roadsides, waste ground
LOCATION: Scattered statewide

CAUTION: Buckthorn leaves are similar to those of the cherry tree and they also bear clusters of black berries. These berries, as well as the bark and leaves, are poisonous, acting as a violent laxative.
BUCKEYE, HORSE CHESTNUT (*Aesculus*)

FLOWERS: April - May
HABITAT: Rich, rocky woods, valleys, ravines, slopes, base of bluffs, thickets
LOCATION: Statewide except extreme southeast Missouri

CAUTION: Seeds are poisonous and can cause a coma. They seem to be safe after boiling or roasting.

PIMPERNEL (*Anagallis arvensis*)

FLOWERS: May - September
HABITAT: Fields, pastures, rocky glades, edge of bluffs, roadsides, railroads
LOCATION: South and central Missouri

CAUTION: Some sources declare this a salad and potherb material, others insist it to be poisonous. Best to use care here.
POISON HEMLOCK (*Conium maculatum*)

FLOWERS: May - August

HABITAT: Waste ground, fields, pastures, fence-rows, thickets, low ground, roadsides, railroads

LOCATION: Scattered

CAUTION: The seeds, leaves and roots cause paralysis, then death. The victim has a clear mind to the end. This is famous as the drink that did Socrates in. It looks a great deal like Queen Anne's Lace except the stem of Poison Hemlock is smooth and without hairs.
WATER HEMLOCK (*Cicuta*)
FLOWERS: May - September
HABITAT: Borders of ponds, sloughs, ditches, spring branches, wet depressions of prairies, low and upland meadows
LOCATION: Every county

CAUTION: All parts of the plant, but especially the roots, are deadly. The roots smell and taste like parsnips. They produce violent convulsions.

QUEEN ANNE'S LACE
(*Daucus carota*)
FLOWERS: May - October
HABITAT: Fields, waste ground, roadsides, railroads, thickets, gravel bars, woodland
LOCATION: Statewide

CAUTION: The leaves have caused some individuals to develop dermatitis. Do not confuse with poisonous hemlock.
DOGBANE, INDIAN HEMP  
(Apocynum)  
FLOWERS: May - August  
HABITAT: Prairies, glades, rocky open woods, thicket, waste ground, railroads  
LOCATION: Statewide  

CAUTION: Can be mistaken for milkweed as it is coming up. Dogbane leaf is smooth and mature plant forks. When eaten, dogbane can produce vomiting and diarrhea.

BITTERSWEET  
NIGHTSHADE (Solanum dulcamara)  
FLOWERS: May - November  
HABITAT: Low woods, thickets, roadsides, fencerows  
LOCATION: Scattered statewide

CAUTION: Seeds of this plant are poisonous.
Milkweeds (Asclepias)
FLOWERS: May - August
HABITAT: Varies with species
LOCATION: Some species statewide

CAUTION: Raw plants of all milkweed are poisonous if eaten. Cattle have been poisoned from grazing on butterfly weed leaves and stems. Milkweed and dogbane can be confused in the early growing stages.
BLACK NIGHTSHADE
(Solanum nigrum)
FLOWERS: May - November
HABITAT: Open woodland, streams, around dwellings, fallow fields, pastures, roadsides
LOCATION: Statewide

CAUTION: Although this plant has been experimented as an edible, the berries are poisonous to some people and caution should be exercised when using.

HORSE NETTLE (Solanum carolinense)
FLOWERS: May - October
HABITAT: Waste ground, fallow and cultivated fields, prairies, roadsides, railroads
LOCATION: Every county

CAUTION: Seeds are poisonous. Sometimes called wild tomato. Suggested perhaps ripe fruits and subterranean tubers are edible.
JIMSON WEED (Datura stramonium)
FLOWERS: May - October
HABITAT: Pastures, barnlots, fields, waste areas, roadsides, railroads, rocky open areas
LOCATION: Statewide

CAUTION: Seeds, leaves, flowers and stems highly poisonous. Causes abnormal thirst, distorted sight, delirium, incoherence and coma. Can be fatal. Resembles the night-flowering vine of morning glory as well as the flower of the wild petunia.

ELDERBERRY (Sambucus)
FLOWERS: May - July
HABITAT: Open woods, thickets, along streams, fencerows, roadsides, railroads
LOCATION: Every county

CAUTION: The bark and twigs are poisonous. Children who have used the pithy stems as a blow gun or chewed on the bark are believed to have been poisoned. Cattle and sheep who ate the leaves, young shoots and buds are known to have been fatally poisoned.
APPLE OF PERU (*Nicandra physalodes*)
FLOWERS: July - September
HABITAT: Cultivated and fallow fields, waste ground
LOCATION: Scattered in south and central Missouri

CAUTION: This plant is sometimes used as a fly poison. Very poisonous. Bladder husk fruits not to be confused with ground cherries.

GREAT BURDOCK (*Arctium*)
FLOWERS: July - October
HABITAT: Waste ground, around dwellings, woodlands, thickets, railroads
LOCATION: Statewide

CAUTION: Leaves have caused a rash on some people.
A plant one should recognize when looking for edibles, picking berries, hiking or just enjoying the out of doors is poison ivy.

**POISON IVY** (*Rhus radicans*)

FLOWERS: May - July

HABITAT: Fencerows, roadsides, railroads, waste ground, low and upland dry or wet woods, along streams, valleys, wooded slopes, thickets

LOCATION: Every county

CAUTION: Any part of the plant, due to the oil therein, can produce a rash. Gibbons reports of Kentucky people who eat the young leaves in an effort to build up an immunity.