

Solanaceae Family

(so-lan-AY-see-e or so-lan-Ay-see-eye)

aka Nightshade family

- Major group of Angiosperms (flowering plants)
- Over 2,700 species
- Herbs, shrubs and a few vines and small trees
- Annuals, biannuals and perennials
- In all continents but Antarctica
- In tropical rainforests, deserts and mountains
- Most concentrated in tropical regions of Latin America
- About 50 species in US and Canada

Flowers almost
always have five
petals that are often
fused together



Petunia x atkinsiana

Blue potato bush (*Lycianthes rantonnetii*)



Jimsonweed (*Datura stramonium*)



Cup of Gold (*Solandra maxima*)



Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow (*Brunfelsia latiflora*)



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Many Solanaceae plants contain toxic alkaloids

- Protection from insects and animals
- Used in medicines, narcotics and poisons
- Some hallucinogenic and used in rituals
- Some can be lethal if eaten

Deadly Nightshade (*Atropa belladonna*)



Tobacco

(Nicotiana tabacum)



Angel's trumpet (*Brugmansia*)



Hallucinogenic tea and seeds

Solanaceae Vegetables

Tomato
(*Solanum lycopersicum*)



Potato
(*Solanum tuberosum*)



Eggplant
(*Solanum melongena*)



Peppers
(genus *Capsicum*)



Solanaceae Vegetables

- Shared vulnerability for soil-borne diseases and pests
- Do crop rotation with different families of vegetables
- Allow 3+ years before replanting any of these in the same spot
- UC Master Gardener article on crop rotation at <http://ucanr.org/sites/ucmgnapa/files/135362.pdf>