

# Castor Bean

*(Ricinus communis)*



Long used in traditional medicine, castor oil is a natural remedy derived from the castor bean. A native of Africa, many varieties are green and some are reddish brown.

Although the seeds from the castor bean plant are poisonous to people, animals and insects, they are the source of numerous economically important products.

Castor beans have been found in ancient Egyptian tombs dating back to 4000 B.C. The oil was used thousands of years ago in wick lamps for lighting. Many think the castor plant is an overgrown weed, yet it produces one of nature's finest natural oils.

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