

Lathyrogens

Description

Lathyrogens include J-amino propionitrile and the neurotoxic amino acid J-N-oxalyl-L-I,J-diaminopropionic acid (Tacon, 1997). They are responsible of the disease called lathyrism (skeletal lesions, retarded sexual development and paralysis) (Tacon, 1997).

Occurrences

They are found in certain plants of the genus *Lathyrus* such as the grass pea.

Treatment

Lathyrogens are readily removed by cooking in water (100° C) and draining off the excess water (Tacon, 1997). Soaking dehusked seeds overnight followed by steaming for 30 minutes, or roasting of the seed at 140° C for 15-20 minutes have also been reported (Gupta, 1987).