



# Regional Center for Poison Control and Prevention

*Serving Massachusetts and Rhode Island*



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## Poisonous Plants

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Children are often attracted to the colorful berries, flowers, fruits, and leaves of plants. But over 700 plants in the US and Canada have been identified as poisonous. These can be found anywhere – in your home or your neighbor’s home, in florist shops and grocery stores, in yards, in the woods and on playgrounds. Plants are a common cause of poisoning to preschool children. If eaten, some plant parts can cause a skin rash or upset stomach; others can cause more serious symptoms. Here is a partial list of indoor and outdoor plants that can cause symptoms when ingested:

Autumn Crocus	Daffodil Bulbs	Jack in the Pulpit	Moonseed	Rosary Pea
Azalea	Daphne	Jequirity Bean	Morning Glory Seed	Rubber Vine
Baneberry	Delphinium	Jessamine	Mountain Laurel	Sandbox Tree
Belladonna	Dieffenbachia	Jimson weed	Mushrooms	Tansy
Black Cherry	Dumbcane	Larkspur	Nightshade	Thorn Apple
Black Locust	False Hellebore	Lantana	Oleander	Tobacco
Buckeye	Foxglove	Laurel	Philodendron	Tung Oil Tree
Caladium	Goldenchain	Lily of the Valley	Poinsettia	Water Hemlock
Casper Spurge	Holly Berries	Lupine	Poison Hemlock	White Snakeroot
Castor Bean	Horse Chestnuts	Mistletoe	Pokeweed	Wisteria
Cherry	Hyacinth	Monkshood	Rhododendron	Yellow Oleander
Chinaberry	Hydrangea	Moon Flower	Rhubarb Leaves	Yew

### How to Prevent Plant Poisonings

Fortunately, most plant poisonings can be prevented. Here are some ways:

- ☞ Identify plants in your home and yard. You can get help from library books, garden and florist shops, plant nurseries, or Cooperative Extension Services located at University of Rhode Island and University of Massachusetts.
- ☞ Learn which plants are poisonous.
- ☞ Remove poisonous plants from the area.
- ☞ Keep young children away from all plants. Even eating too much of a safe plant can make someone sick.
- ☞ Supervise young children closely around plants.
- ☞ Teach children not to put plants, fruits, and berries in their mouths.
- ☞ For a list of plants poisonous to pets consult: <http://www.aspc.org/site/PageServer?pagename=apcc>

### What to do if you suspect someone has swallowed a plant?

**If you think someone may have swallowed any part of a poisonous plant, first remove any remaining pieces from the person’s mouth. Then, bring the person and a piece of the plant to the phone and call your poison control center right away.**

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**24-HOUR POISON HOTLINE 1-800-222-1222**