Poisonous Plants

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

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

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