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COMMON POISONOUS PLANTS

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From time to time I receive urgent requests for information regarding poisonous plants. In most cases a child has ingested a portion of a house plant in the home or some plant in the landscape.

It is common for children under the age of five to eat or taste plants. To prevent a poisoning from occurring here are a few tips:

- *Know the names of your house and yard plants and trees.
- *Keep poisonous plants out of the reach of young children.
- *Teach your children never to put leaves, stems, seeds, nuts, mushrooms (toadstools) or berries from any plant into their mouths.
- *Never eat a wild berry or mushroom unless you are positive of its identity.
- *Do not assume a plant is safe to eat because birds or other wildlife eat it.
- *Do not rely on cooking to destroy toxic chemicals.
- *Store bulbs and seeds out of sight and reach of children.

Symptoms from plant poisonings vary greatly. Some plants may cause skin irritation, irritation of the mouth, nausea, vomiting or more serious effects. If anyone happens to eat a poisonous plant or a plant you do not know about, please follow the first aid instructions and then call the Western Ohio Poison and Drug Information Center (937) 222-2227 or toll free outside Montgomery County 1-800-762-0727.

The following is a list of toxic plants and the part of the plant that is poisonous: American ivy, berries; Asparagus, uncooked young shoots; Azalea, all parts; Bittersweet, leaves, fruit; Black Locust, bark, foliage, seed; Boxwood, leaves, stems; Buckthorn, fruit, leaves, bark; Calamondin orange, fruit, peels, thorns; Castor bean, seed (if chewed); Chokeberry, leaves, bark, seeds; Cotoneaster, fruit, berries; Crocus, all parts, especially bulbs; Cyclamen, tuber; Daffodil, all parts, especially bulbs; Daphne, all parts, especially fruit, bark.

Deadly nightshade, all parts; Dogsbane, all parts; Dumbcane, all parts; Elderberry, leaves, shoots, bark, unripe fruit, roots; Elephant ear, all parts; English ivy, all parts, especially leaves, berries; Eyebane, all parts; Four O'Clock, roots, seeds; Foxglove, leaves, seeds; Ground ivy, all parts; Holly, leaves, especially berries; Horse chestnut, flowers, young sprouts, nuts; Hyacinth, bulbs; Hydrangea, leaves, bulbs; Iris, bulbs, leaves, stems; Jack-in-the-Pulpit, all parts; Jequirity bean, bean (chewed).

Jerusalem cherry, leaves, unripe fruit; Jessamine, all parts; Jimson weed, all parts; Juniper, all parts; Kentucky coffee tree, seeds; Larkspur, all parts, especially young plant and seeds; Lily-of-the-Valley, all parts; Mistletoe, all parts, especially berries; Monkshood, all parts, especially roots and seeds; Morning glory, seeds; Mountain laurel, all parts; Mushrooms (toadstools), all parts; Narcissus, all parts, especially berries; Nightshade, all parts, especially leaves, green fruit; Oak trees, raw acorns, young sprouts and buds; Oleander, stems, flowers, leaves; Philodendron, all parts; Poison hemlock, all parts; Poison ivy, sap from all parts; Poison sumac, sap from all parts; Pokeweed, all parts, especially roots; Privet, berries, leaves; Rhododendron, all parts; Rhubarb, leaf blades; Snow on the mountain, all parts; Tulip (blue), all parts; Water hemlock, all parts, especially roots; Wisteria, pods, seeds; and Yew, all parts.

This is a collection of common toxic plants. It is not a list of all poisonous plants. Call the Western Ohio Poison and Drug Information Center if any are eaten.

The information in this article was adapted from a pamphlet distributed by the Children's Medical Center of Dayton. Hopefully, it can save you a few anxious moments one day.



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one flower at a time.*