



Plant Safety

The Ontario Poison Centre receives many calls about children who have touched or eaten a plant that may be poisonous.

If your child eats or touches a plant, berry, seed, bulb or wild mushroom that you think may be poisonous, call us immediately. When you call the Ontario Poison Centre, be prepared to give the following information:

- Any symptoms of illness your child displays.
- Name of plant (if you know it). The Specialists at the Centre are Specialists in Poison Information, they are not plant specialists. They cannot identify plants over the phone.
- How much and what parts were eaten?
- How recently it was eaten or touched?
- Age of your child.

The Poison Specialist will tell you what to do and what symptoms to watch for. Children can react differently to the same plant.

Helpful hints to prevent a plant poisoning:

- To be safe, keep all plants, berries, seeds, and bulbs out of reach of young children.
- Of course this is not always possible, especially outdoors, so teach your child to stay away from plants and not to eat any non-food items!
- Make sure you and your child's caregivers know the names of all plants and trees inside and outside your home, just in case.
- It's a good idea to leave the tags on all items you bring home from a plant nursery. If you don't know the names, an expert from a plant nursery may be able to help you identify the plant and give you a tag to place near your plant.

Be careful:

- Do not assume that a plant is safe for people just because birds or wildlife eat it.
- Jewelry, crafts and maracas, especially those purchased outside of Canada, may contain poisonous seeds.
- Do not suck nectar from flowers or make tea from flowers or leaves.
- Cactus plants can cause skin to be irritated and should be kept away from children.

Poisonous Plants

The following plants are known to be Poisonous to humans.

- Some of these plants will not cause serious poisoning unless a large amount is eaten.
- Seeds or pits from apples, apricots, cherries, nectarines and peaches are poisonous, but only if eaten in large amounts. Accidentally swallowing a few seeds will not cause illness.
- Remember, a young child may choke on any plant.
- This is not a complete list of all poisonous plants.

If any of these poisonous plants are eaten, call the Ontario Poison Centre immediately:

Mistletoe
Monkshood
Morning Glory
Mother-in-law Plant
Mother-in-law's Tongue Plant
Daisy (Chrysanthemum)
Delphinium
Dieffenbachia (Dumb Cane)
Dumb Cane
Elephant's Ear
English Ivy
Eucalyptus
Euonymus
Foxglove
Gladiola
Holly
Horse Chestnut
Hyacinth
Hydrangea
Iris
Jack-in-the-Pulpit
Jequirity Bean
Jerusalem Cherry
Jimson Weed
Larkspur
Lily-of-the-Valley
Lobelia
Lupine
Marijuana
Milkweed
Amaryllis
Angel's Trumpet
Arrowhead vine
Autumn Crocus
Azalea
Bittersweet
Black Locust
Boston Ivy
Caladium
Calla Lily
Castor Bean
Chinese Lantern Plant
Clematis
Cotoneaster
Crocus, Autumn
Croton
Cyclamen
Daffodil

Non Poisonous Plants

These plants are considered Non Poisonous to humans.

- A person is not likely to get ill from these plants, but certain people may have an unusual reaction.
- Remember that a young child may choke on any plant.
- Although these plants are not poisonous to humans, some of these plants may be harmful to pets. Call your Veterinarian for more information.
- This is not a complete list of all non poisonous plants.

First Aid

What to do if your child EATS a poisonous plant:

If your child puts a plant in his or her mouth, do not taste the plant yourself to check if it is poisonous.

If your child is choking, unconscious, or having trouble breathing or swallowing, you should:

- Call 911 immediately.

If your child appears well, you should:

- Look for pieces of the plant in the mouth.
- Remove any pieces of the plant that you can see.
- Give small sips of water.
- Do not try to make your child throw up.
- Call the Ontario Poison Centre.

What to do if your child TOUCHES a poisonous plant:

Some plants may cause skin irritation, itching, a rash or blisters

- Wash the skin immediately with lots of soap and lukewarm water.
- Call the Ontario Poison Centre.

Mushroom Safety

Poisonous and non poisonous mushrooms grow side by side. Only a mushroom expert, called a mycologist, can tell the difference. It is dangerous to eat any mushroom that you have found outdoors. Cooking outdoor mushrooms does NOT make them safe to eat.

Please note:

- Eating even small parts of some mushrooms can cause sickness and death.
- After eating a poisonous mushroom, a person may not become ill for many hours.
- Do not wait until the person feels sick to call the Ontario Poison Centre.

Helpful hints to prevent mushroom poisoning:

- Remove and throw away all mushrooms growing near your home.
- Check your lawn for mushrooms before children go outdoors to play, especially after a rainfall.

African Violet	Gardenia *
Alyssum	Gloxinia
Asparagus Fern	Grape Hyacinth
Astilbe	Hens and Chicks
Baby's Breath *	Hibiscus *
Baby's Tears	Hollyhock
Bachelors Buttons	Honey Locust
Black-eyed Susan *	Hoya
Boston Fern	Impatiens
Chinese Evergreen	Jade Plant
Christmas Cactus	Maple (seeds and young leaves)
Coleus *	Marigold *
Coral Bells	Money Plant
Cosmos	Mountain Ash
Crocus (spring blooming only)	Mulberry
Dahlia *	Peperomia
Dandelion	Persian Violet
Daylily *	Petunia
Dracaena	Phlox
Easter Lily	Poinsettia **
Evening Primrose	Polka-dot Plant
Ficus Benjamina *	Portulaca
Freesia	Prayer Plant
Fuchsia	Primrose *

The above plants are Non Poisonous to humans.

- * These plants may cause skin irritation or allergic reactions.
- * This plant may cause skin irritation, and mild nausea or vomiting.

Purple Coneflower
Rose *
Rubber Plant*
Schefflera *
Snapdragon
Spider Plant
Spiraea
Statice *
Tulip *
Wandering Jew *
Weeping Fig *
Weigela
Yucca
Zinnia

