Pretty Plants and Pretty Poisonous Plants

Poison Center Hotlines
Greater Nashville Area Hotline
615-936-2034
National Hotline
1-800-222-1222

Web Site
www.PoisonLifeline.org

Oleander

Poison Ivy

Tennessee Poison Center
501 Oxford House, 1161 21st Avenue, South
Nashville, TN 37232-4632
Office Phone: 615-936-0760

The Tennessee Poison Center provides free educational programs to organizations and schools. Please call 615-936-0760 for more information.

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Household plants have become one of the leading causes of poison ingestions in children. A child's natural curiosity attracts him/her to the shiny leaves and bright flowers. If given a chance, children will put plants in their mouths. Most plants are not seriously poisonous, but ingestion of large quantities of even non-poisonous plants may cause gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea or vomiting.

It is important to keep plants away from the reach of children. This information sheet will help you in identifying plants in and around your home that may be potentially poisonous. If someone has eaten a plant, call the poison center before you attempt to treat at home. Only induce vomiting or give food or fluids on advice of the poison center.

The plants listed are the ones most commonly asked about in the Middle Tennessee region. If you have any further questions, please call the Tennessee Poison Center.

**Common Names of Poisonous Plants**

- Acorn
- Amaryllis
- Anemone
- Angels Trumpet
- Azalea
- Apricot Seed
- Arrowhead
- Autumn Crocus
- Avocado (leaves)
- Baneberry
- Bird of Paradise (tree)
- Bittersweet
- Black Locust
- Bleeding Heart
- Boston Ivy
- Buckeye
- Buttercup
- Caladium
- Calla Lilly
- Castor Bean
- Cherry tree (not fruit)
- Daffodil
- Delphinium
- Devil's Ivy
- Dieffenbachia
- Dumb Cane
- Elderberry (except fruit)
- Elephant Ear
- English Ivy
- Euonymus Species
- Foxglove
- Golden Chain
- Hemlock
- Holly
- Hyacinth
- Hydrangea
- Iris
- Jack in the Pulpit
- Japanese Yew
- Jerusalem Cherry
- Jimson Weed
- Jonquil
- Larkspur
- Laurels (all types)
- Lily of the Valley
- Magnolia
- Mayapple
- Milkweed
- Mistletoe
- Morning Glory
- Mother-in-law Tongue
- Narcissus
- Oleander
- Peony
- Periwinkle
- Philodendrons
- Poke (flowers)
- Potato (sprouts and plant)
- Privet
- Rattleweed
- Rhododendron
- Rhubarb (leaves)
- Sweet Pea
- Tomato (not fruit)
- Wisteria
- Yew (all parts)

**Common Names of Plants Generally Considered Not Poisonous**

- African Violet
- Airplane plant
- Aloe Vera
- Aluminum plant
- Aralia
- Aspidistra
- Aster
- Baby's Tears
- Bachelor Buttons
- Bamboo
- Begonia species
- Bromeliads
- Chenille plant
- Chinese Evergreen
- Christmas Cactus
- Chrysanthemum
- Coleus
- Corn plant
- Crab Apple
- Croton
- Daisy
- Dahlia
- Dandelion
- Dogwood
- Dracena
- False Aralia
- Ferns
- Ficus
- Fig species
- Forsythia
- Fuchsia
- Gardenia
- Grape Ivy
- Hackberry
- Hawthorn
- Hen and Chickens
- Honeysuckle
- Hoya species
- Impatiens
- Jade plant
- Lily (Easter, Day, Tiger)
- Liriope
- Maple
- Marigold
- Mimosas
- Monkey Grass
- Mountain Ash
- Nandina
- Norfolk Island Pine
- Palm species
- Peperomia
- Petunia
- Pittosporum
- Poinsetta
- Prayer plant
- Purple Velvet
- Redbud
- Roses
- Rubber plant
- Schefflera
- Swedish Ivy
- Wandering Jew
- Weeping Fig
- Wild Strawberry
- Zinnia

**Some Do’s And Don’ts**

- Teach your children never to put leaves, stems, bark, seeds, nuts or berries from any plant into their mouths.

- Keep poisonous houseplants, bulbs and seeds out of reach of children. Never store bulbs and seeds in your refrigerator.

- Know the names of all plants in your house and yard. If you don’t know the name of a plant, have it identified at the nearest landscape or gardening center.

- If you take your child to the doctor or emergency room because of a plant ingestion, take a sample of the plant with you for identification. Try to include a large enough sample to see stems, roots, and flowers.

- Remember that any plant that has been treated recently with insecticides or other chemicals should be considered poisonous until proven otherwise.

- Do not assume a plant is not poisonous because birds or other wildlife eat it.

- Plants are not only poisonous if ingested, but many plants may also produce severe dermal allergic reactions.

- Edible wild mushrooms are nearly impossible to identify, even by experts. Only eat commercially grown and prepared mushrooms.