

Ontario Poison Centre

Expert poison advice 24 hours a day.
Supporting all of Ontario.



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Ontario Centre
Poison Anti-Poison
Centre de l'Ontario

Plant Safety

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

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 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?
- When/how long ago did this happen?
- The child's age.

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 right away:



Non Poisonous Plants

The plants listed on the right 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 a child EATS a poisonous plant:

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

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

- Call 911 right away.

If the child appears well, you should:

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

What to do if a 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.

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

* These plants may cause skin irritation or allergic reactions.

** This plant may cause skin irritation and mild nausea or vomiting.

