

Poisonous Plant Resource Sheet for Child Care Providers

This resource sheet lists common plants involved in external and internal plant poisonings, as well as web and institutional resources available to aid in plant identification and plant poisoning cases. The list of plants is in no way exhaustive. It is merely meant to serve as a brief overview of some common plants.

Common plants causing skin irritation or dermatitis

Bull nettle (*Cnidioscolus stimulosus*)
 Spotted spurge (*Euphorbia maculata*)
 Trumpet creeper (*Campsis radicans*)
 Poison oak (*Toxicodendron pubescens*)
 Poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*)
 Wood nettle (*Laportea canadensis*)

Common and cultivated plants causing internal poisoning to various degrees upon ingestion of indicated parts

INDOOR PLANTS

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| Aroids (<i>Dieffenbachia</i> , <i>Monstera</i> , <i>Philodendron</i> , <i>Spathiphyllum</i>) | Leaves |
| Mistletoe (<i>Phoradendron serotinum</i>) | Berries |
| Poinsettia (<i>Euphorbia pulcherrima</i>) | Milky sap |

OUTDOOR PLANTS

Trees

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| Black cherry (<i>Prunus serotina</i>) | All parts, except ripe fruit flesh |
| Black locust (<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>) | Inner bark, twigs, young leaves, seeds |
| Mulberry (<i>Morus</i> spp.) | Unripe fruits and milky sap |

Shrubs and bedding plants

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|--|---------------------------------|
| Azalea (<i>Rhododendron</i> spp.) | All parts |
| Boxwood (<i>Buxus</i> spp.) | Leaves |
| Caladium (<i>Caladium</i> spp.) | All parts |
| Cardinal flower (<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>) | All parts |
| Castor-bean (<i>Ricinus communis</i>) | Seeds |
| Heavenly-bamboo (<i>Nandina domestica</i>) | Berries (potentially) |
| Hollies (<i>Ilex</i> spp.) | Berries, when eaten in quantity |
| Hydrangea (<i>Hydrangea</i> spp.) | Bark, leaves, flower buds |
| Jimsonweed (<i>Datura stramonium</i>) | All parts |
| Lantana (<i>Lantana camara</i>) | Unripe fruits |
| Lobelia (<i>Lobelia</i> spp.) | All parts |
| Madagascar periwinkle (<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>) | All parts |
| Mountain-laurel (<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>) | All parts |
| Oleander (<i>Nerium oleander</i>) | All parts |
| Pokeweed (<i>Phytolacca americana</i>) | All mature parts |
| Rhododendron (<i>Rhododendron</i> spp.) | All parts |

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Sheep-laurel, Lamb-kill (<i>Kalmia</i> spp.) | All parts |
| Tomato (<i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i>) | Stems and leaves |

Vines

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|---|-------------------------------|
| English ivy (<i>Hedera helix</i>) | All parts |
| Hyacinth bean (<i>Dolichos lablab</i>) | Pods and seeds |
| Peppervine (<i>Ampelopsis arborea</i>) | Unknown, caution with berries |
| Porcelain berry (<i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i>) | Unknown, caution with berries |
| Sweet Pea (<i>Lathyrus</i> spp.) | Seeds |
| Vetchling (<i>Lathyrus</i> spp.) | Seeds |
| Virginia creeper (<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>) | Berries |
| Yellow Allamanda (<i>Allamanda cathartica</i>) | All parts |
| Yellow jessamine (<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>) | All parts |
| Wisteria (<i>Wisteria</i> spp.) | Seeds |

How to avoid plant poisoning

1. Learn to recognize and name the dangerous plants around your facility.
2. Keep plants and plant parts away from infants and children
3. Teach children to keep unknown plants and plant parts out of their mouths
4. Teach children to recognize poison-ivy and other dermatitis-causing plants
5. Do not allow children to make “tea” from leaves or suck nectar from flowers
6. Do not rely on pets, birds, squirrels, or other animals to indicate non-poisonous plants.
7. Label garden seeds and bulbs and store out of reach of children
8. Be pro-active. If unsure of whether or not a plant around your facility is poisonous, mail a sample to the NC State University Herbarium for identification:

Herbarium, Department of Botany

NC State University

Raleigh, NC 27695-7612

Additional information, including how to prepare specimens and which forms should be filled out, is available online: <http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/botany/ncsc/identification.htm>

In case of emergencies

Call a physician or the **Carolina’s Poison Center (1-800-848-6946)** immediately!

Be prepared to provide the following information:

1. Name of the plant, if known
2. What parts and how much were eaten
3. How long ago was it eaten
4. Age of individual
5. Symptoms observed
6. A good description of the plant. **Save the specimen** for identification by a plant taxonomist at a local university (e.g., NCSU Herbarium Curator @ 919-515-2700).

Online poisonous plant resources from NC State University

1. <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/poison/poison.htm>
2. <http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/botany/ncsc/Poisonplants/index.htm>