

COMMON PLANTS

What's poisonous and what's not?



**POISON
HELP**
1-800-222-1222



Wisconsin
Poison Center

Serving people of all ages.

wisconsinpoison.org

Common plants

What's poisonous and what's not?

Many common plants found in the house and outside in the garden, woods or fields can cause problems if eaten or handled so as to cause skin and eye contact. Some can be quite irritating, while others can cause stomach distress, skin rashes, hallucinations or irregular heartbeats. It is very important to know the common and botanical names of all your plants, whether they are indoors or outdoors.

You can use this list as an aid to avoid buying plants that could be a problem if you have children or even pets that may want to sample. For your family's safety, this list includes many common plants, including both poisonous and nonpoisonous varieties, but **if a plant is not listed, don't assume that it is not poisonous**. Remember that small children have unlimited curiosity, so plants need to be well out of climbing reach. Also remember that even if a plant seems harmless to humans, this may not be so for pets, so always check out plant exposures with a veterinarian.

If you have reason to believe that someone has eaten or had skin or eye contact with a problem plant, **call the Poison Center immediately at 1-800-222-1222**, 24 hours/day, for prompt advice and professional treatment recommendations. It is also important to know that some parts of plants can be harmless, while other parts could be a problem, so knowing which part of the plant was involved is quite helpful. If you are interested in buying a plant and it is not on this list, call the Poison Center before bringing it home and ask if it is a problem plant.

Plant guidelines

- Do NOT eat any part of a plant you don't recognize as edible.
- Do NOT chew on items made from imported beans or seeds.
- Do NOT make teas or brews from plants you do not know.
- Make sure children understand and follow these rules.
- If the person needs medical care, take along a large sample of the plant in a brown paper bag. To help with identification, include the leaves, fruit, flowers and any other parts.
- Enter the Poison Center phone number in your cell phone: 1-800-222-1222.
- Remember that the Poison Center can be useful to rule out potentially toxic plants before they are purchased or exposures occur.



COMMON PLANTS

Acorn *all Quercus species*



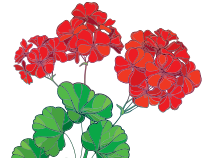
NAME OF PLANT	TOXIC PART(S)	SYMPTOMS
Acorn	Raw nuts in large quantities	Thirst, stomach pain possible
African violet	Nontoxic	
Aloe vera	Sap in large quantities	Diarrhea possible
Aluminum plant	Nontoxic	
Alyssum	Nontoxic	
Amaryllis	Bulb	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
Angel's trumpet	All parts	Nausea, vomiting, dry, warm skin and mouth, delirium
Apple	Seeds in large quantities	Stomach pain, vomiting, breathing difficulties, rise in blood pressure with delayed symptoms possible
Apricot	Kernel in the pit, in large quantities	Stomach pain, vomiting, breathing difficulties, rise in blood pressure with delayed symptoms possible
Artillery plant	Nontoxic	
Arrowhead vine	All parts	Burning irritation of mouth, throat and stomach, which may be severe
Asparagus fern	All parts	Skin irritation possible
Aster, annual (<i>Callistephus sp.</i>)	Nontoxic	
Aster, perennial (<i>Aster sp.</i>)	Nontoxic	
Avocado	Seeds, leaves, bark	Toxic to birds and other animals
Azalea (<i>Rhododendron sp.</i>)	All parts	Vomiting, diarrhea, muscle weakness, drowsiness, headache
Baby's breath	Nontoxic	
Baneberry	Roots, berries	Pain and swelling of mouth and throat, severe stomach pain, headache, dizziness, bloody diarrhea and urine, hallucinations, rise in heart rate
Barberry	Roots	Burning sensation of mouth and skin, nausea and vomiting
Begonia	Nontoxic	
Bittersweet (<i>Solanum sp.</i>)	All parts except ripe fruit	Stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea, delayed symptoms possible
Bittersweet (<i>Celastrus sp.</i>)	All parts	Vomiting, diarrhea, chills possible
Blue cohosh	Roots, leaves, seeds	Severe stomach pain, salivation, nausea, vomiting, headache, fever, skin irritation
Blue flag iris	Root, possibly leaves	Burning irritation of mouth and throat, vomiting, diarrhea
Boston fern	Nontoxic	
Bracken fern	All parts	Cancer-causing if chronic human ingestion. Toxic to cattle and horses, transfers into milk.

Chrysanthemum *Chrysanthemum species*



NAME OF PLANT	TOXIC PART(S)	SYMPTOMS
Bridal wreath	Nontoxic	
Buckthorn	Berries, bark, roots	Nausea, stomach cramps, watery or bloody diarrhea, dizziness
Burning bush (<i>Euonymus sp.</i>)	Bark	Vomiting, diarrhea
Burro's tail	Nontoxic	
Cactus	Spines	Mechanical irritation and pain
Caladium	All parts	Irritation, swelling and pain of mouth, lips and throat. Skin irritation may be severe. May block breathing or swallowing.
Calla lily	All parts	Burning irritation of mouth, throat and stomach, which may be severe
Canna lily	Nontoxic	
Carnation	Leaves	Mouth and skin irritation possible
Castor bean	All parts, especially seeds	Mouth and stomach pain, diarrhea, bleeding, kidney failure, seizures, death
Cherry	Kernel in the pit, in large quantities	Stomach pain, vomiting, breathing difficulties, rise in blood pressure with delayed symptoms possible
Chinese evergreen	Nontoxic	
Chinese lantern (<i>Physalis sp.</i>)	All parts except ripe fruit	Stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea, delayed symptoms possible
Choke cherry	Kernel in the pit, in large quantities	Stomach pain, vomiting, breathing difficulties, rise in blood pressure with delayed symptoms possible
Christmas cactus	Nontoxic	
Christmas tree	Needles, sap	Mechanical obstruction, skin and eye irritation (sap)
Chrysanthemum	Flower heads, possibly leaves	Skin irritation, itching, sneezing, runny nose, nausea, vomiting, numbness of lips and tongue
Cocoa bean mulch	Shells	Toxic to dogs
Coleus	Nontoxic	
Corn plant	Nontoxic	
Cotoneaster	Nontoxic	
Crabapple	Seeds in large quantities	Stomach pain, vomiting, breathing difficulties, rise in blood pressure with delayed symptoms possible
Crocus (Spring-blooming)	Nontoxic	
Croton	Nontoxic	
Daffodil	Bulb	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, skin irritation
Dandelion	Nontoxic	
Daphne	All parts	Burning irritation of mouth, throat and stomach, salivation, swollen lips, vomiting, diarrhea, skin irritation, kidney damage possible

Geranium *all Pelargonium species*



NAME OF PLANT	TOXIC PART(S)	SYMPTOMS
Daylily	Nontoxic	
Death camas	Bulb, flowers	Burning irritation of mouth, vomiting, diarrhea, headache, dizziness
Delphinium	All parts, especially seeds	Burning irritation of mouth and throat, nausea, vomiting, nervousness, skin irritation
Devil's Ivy	All parts	Burning irritation of mouth, throat and stomach, which may be severe
Dieffenbachia	All parts	Irritation, swelling and pain of mouth, lips and throat. Skin irritation may be severe. May block breathing or swallowing.
Digitalis	All parts	Stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea, confusion, irregular heartbeat
Dogbane	All parts	Stomach pain, rise in blood pressure, irregular heartbeat
Donkey tail	Nontoxic	
Dracaena	Nontoxic	Toxic to cats
Dumb cane	All parts	Irritation, swelling and pain of mouth, lips and throat. Skin irritation may be severe. May block breathing or swallowing.
Easter cactus	Nontoxic	
Easter lily	Nontoxic	Toxic to cats
Elderberry	All parts	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, dizziness, caution with raw fruit
Elephant's ear	All parts	Irritation, swelling and pain of mouth, lips and throat. Skin irritation may be severe. May block breathing or swallowing.
English ivy	Leaves, berries	Mouth, throat, stomach irritation, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea possible
False aralia	Nontoxic	
False Solomon's seal	Nontoxic	
Ficus	Leaves	Mouth and skin irritation possible from sap
Fittonia	Nontoxic	
Forsythia	Nontoxic	
Foxglove	All parts	Stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea, confusion, irregular heartbeat
Fuchsia	Nontoxic	
Garlic	Nontoxic	All parts toxic to many animal species, including dogs and cats
Geranium	All parts	Skin irritation possible
Gladiolus	Bulb	Nausea, vomiting, skin irritation
Gold-dust plant	Nontoxic	
Goldenseal	Roots	Mouth and skin irritation, nausea, vomiting
Grape hyacinth	Nontoxic	
Grape ivy	Nontoxic	

Iris all *Iris* species



NAME OF PLANT	TOXIC PART(S)	SYMPTOMS
Hawaiian ti	Nontoxic	
Hemlock, poison (<i>Conium sp.</i>)	All parts (often mistaken for parsley)	Nausea, vomiting, mouth and throat irritation, dizziness, seizures
Hemlock, water (<i>Cicuta sp.</i>)	All parts, especially roots	Nausea, salivation, diarrhea, fever, delirium, dilated pupils, seizures
Hens and chicks	Nontoxic	
High bush cranberry (<i>Viburnum sp.</i>)	Nontoxic	
Hindu rope plant	Nontoxic	
Hibiscus	Nontoxic	
Holly	Berries in large quantities	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea possible
Honeysuckle	Nontoxic	
Horse chestnut (<i>Aesculus sp.</i>)	Young sprouts, nuts	Mouth irritation, vomiting, diarrhea. May cause allergic reaction.
Hosta	Nontoxic	
Hoya	Nontoxic	
Hyacinth	Bulb	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, skin irritation
Hydrangea	Buds, leaves	Stomach pain, vomiting, dizziness, headache, breathing difficulties, delayed symptoms possible
Impatiens	Nontoxic	
Iris	Root, possibly leaves	Burning irritation of mouth and throat, vomiting, diarrhea
Jack-in-the-pulpit	All parts	Irritation, swelling and pain of mouth, lips and throat. Skin irritation may be severe. May block breathing or swallowing.
Jade plant	Nontoxic	
Japanese lantern (<i>Physalis sp.</i>)	All parts except ripe fruit	Stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea, delayed symptoms possible
Jerusalem cherry	Leaves, unripe fruit	Stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea, delayed symptoms possible
Juniper	Leaves	Skin irritation, may be severe
Kalanchoe	Nontoxic	
Lantana	All parts, especially unripe fruit	Stomach upset, watery or bloody diarrhea, dilated pupils, muscle weakness, delayed symptoms possible
Larkspur	All parts	Burning irritation of mouth and throat, nausea, vomiting, nervousness, skin irritation
Lilac	Nontoxic	
Lily of the valley	All parts	Stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea, confusion, irregular heartbeat
Lipstick plant	Nontoxic	
Locust, black (<i>Robinia sp.</i>)	All parts except flowers	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, weakness

Mistletoe *Phoradendron flavescens*



NAME OF PLANT	TOXIC PART(S)	SYMPTOMS
Locust, honey (<i>Gleditsia sp.</i>)	Nontoxic	
Maple tree	Nontoxic	
Marigold	Nontoxic	
Mayapple	All parts except ripe fruit	Stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea, skin irritation
Milkweed	All parts	Stomach irritation, diarrhea, weakness, loss of appetite
Mistletoe, American	All parts	Vomiting, diarrhea possible
Monkshood	All parts	Nausea, burning irritation of mouth and skin, vomiting, difficulty speaking and swallowing, dizziness
Monstera	All parts	Irritation, swelling and pain of mouth, lips and throat. Skin irritation may be severe. May block breathing or swallowing.
Moonflower	All parts	Nausea, vomiting, dry warm skin and mouth, delirium
Morning glory	Seeds	Confusion, lack of coordination, blurred vision, hallucinations
Moses-in-the-cradle	Sap	Skin irritation
Mother-in-law tongue (<i>Dieffenbachia sp.</i>)	All parts	Irritation, swelling and pain of mouth, lips and throat. Skin irritation may be severe. May block breathing or swallowing.
Mother-in-law tongue (<i>Sansevieria sp.</i>)	Nontoxic	
Mountain ash	Nontoxic	
Mulberry	Nontoxic	
Narcissus	Bulb	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, skin irritation
Nightshade (<i>Solanum sp.</i>)	All parts except ripe fruit	Stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea, delayed symptoms possible
Norfolk Island pine	Nontoxic	
Oleander	All parts	Stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea, confusion, irregular heartbeat
Onion	Nontoxic	All parts toxic to many animal species, including dogs and cats
Orchid	Nontoxic	
Ornamental pepper (<i>Capsicum sp.</i>)	Fruit, seeds	Mouth, throat, skin irritation, possibly severe
Palm	Nontoxic	
Panda plant	Nontoxic	
Pansy	Nontoxic	
Peace lily	All parts	Burning irritation of mouth, throat and stomach, which may be severe

Peach



NAME OF PLANT	TOXIC PART(S)	SYMPTOMS
Peach	Kernel in the pit, in large quantities	Stomach pain, vomiting, breathing difficulties, rise in blood pressure with delayed symptoms possible
Peony	Roots, flowers, seeds	Skin irritation, nausea, stomach pain, diarrhea
Peperomia	Nontoxic	
Petunia	Nontoxic	
Philodendron	All parts; toxic to all animals, including dogs and cats	Irritation, swelling and pain of mouth, lips and throat. Skin irritation may be severe, may block breathing or swallowing.
Piggy-back plant	Nontoxic	
Pilea	Nontoxic	
Pin cherry	Kernel in the pit, in large quantities	Stomach pain, vomiting, breathing difficulties, rise in blood pressure with delayed symptoms possible
Plum	Kernel in the pit, in large quantities	Stomach pain, vomiting, breathing difficulties, rise in blood pressure with delayed symptoms possible
Poinsettia	Leaves, sap	Mouth and skin irritation
Poison ivy	All parts (even smoke from burning leaves)	Itching, rash, oozing sores, swelling of mouth and throat, fever
Poison oak	All parts	Itching, rash, oozing sores, swelling of mouth and throat, fever
Poison sumac	All parts	Itching, rash, oozing sores, swelling of mouth and throat, fever
Pothos	All parts; toxic to all animals, including dogs and cats	Irritation, swelling and pain of mouth, lips and throat. Skin irritation may be severe, may block breathing or swallowing.
Prayer plant	Nontoxic	
Privet	All parts	Stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea
Purple passion	Nontoxic	
Queen Anne's lace	Leaves, flowers	Sun-induced skin irritation. Severe, progressive skin irritation with blister formation, worsening with exposure to sunlight
Rhododendron	All parts	Vomiting, diarrhea, muscle weakness, drowsiness, headache
Rhubarb	Leaves in large quantities	Mouth and skin irritation, kidney damage possible
Rose	Nontoxic	
Rubber plant	Sap	Mouth and skin irritation
Sansevieria	Nontoxic	
Schefflera	Nontoxic	
Sedum	Nontoxic	
Shamrock	All parts	Burning irritation of mouth, throat and stomach, which may be severe

Yew *Taxus species*



NAME OF PLANT	TOXIC PART(S)	SYMPTOMS
Snapdragon	Nontoxic	
Snowberry	Fruit	Vomiting, diarrhea, drowsiness, dizziness
Snow-on-the-mountain	All parts	Sap causes skin rash, blisters, mouth, throat and stomach irritation
Solomon's seal	Fruit	Stomach irritation possible
Spider plant	Nontoxic	
Spurges (all species)	All parts	Sap causes skin rash, blisters, mouth, throat and stomach irritation
Stinging nettle	All parts	Skin burning, irritation
Strawberry begonia	Nontoxic	
Swedish ivy	Nontoxic	
Sweet pea	All parts	Cramps, loss of sensation, paralysis. Symptoms delayed, usually chronic or large ingestion
Thanksgiving cactus	Nontoxic	
Tulip	Bulb	Mouth and skin irritation
Umbrella plant (<i>Cyperus sp.</i>)	All parts	Diarrhea, kidney damage possible if chronic ingestion
Umbrella tree (<i>Brassaia sp.</i>)	Nontoxic	
Violet (outdoors)	Nontoxic	
Virginia creeper	All parts	Mouth and skin irritation
Wandering Jew	Nontoxic	
Wax plant	Nontoxic	
Weeping fig	Sap	Mouth and skin irritation
Wild grape	Nontoxic	Check ID against Virginia creeper (they are similar in appearance)
Wild parsnip	All parts	Severe, progressive skin irritation with blister formation, worsening with exposure to sunlight
Wisteria	All parts	Mouth, throat and skin irritation, stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea
Yew, American (<i>Taxus sp.</i>)	All parts except red fleshy cup around the seed	Vomiting, dizziness, trembling, dry mouth, stomach pain, rash, weakness. Toxic (fatal) to cattle, horses and dogs.
Yew, English (<i>Taxus sp.</i>)	All parts except red fleshy cup around the seed	Vomiting, dizziness, trembling, dry mouth, stomach pain, rash, weakness. Toxic (fatal) to cattle, horses and dogs.
Yew, Japanese (<i>Taxus sp.</i>)	All parts except red fleshy cup around the seed	Vomiting, dizziness, trembling, dry mouth, stomach pain, rash, weakness. Toxic (fatal) to cattle, horses and dogs.
Yew, Japanese (<i>Podocarpus sp.</i>)	Light blue berries, leaves	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
Yucca	Nontoxic	
Zebra plant	Nontoxic	
Zinnia	Nontoxic	

Special considerations for pets and plants

- If an animal is exposed to ANY poison, immediately call the **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at 1-888-426-4435** (there is a charge for this service).
- Dogs love to eat both indoor and outdoor plants.
- Cats enjoy browsing on many indoor and outdoor plants too.
- Birds, small mammals and reptiles appreciate the dietary variety plants offer.
- Large animals, such as cattle and horses, can be seriously poisoned by forage plants.
- Problem plants for animals include, but are not limited to, the following:

Avocado: Problems for birds, goats, cattle and horses

Bracken fern: Toxic to cattle and horses, transfers into milk

Cocoa bean mulch: Toxic to dogs

Easter lily: Toxic to cats

Garlic: Problems for dogs and cats

Onions: Problems for dogs and cats

Philodendron: Toxic to all animals

Pothos: Toxic to all animals

Yew (*Taxus sp.*):

Toxic (fatal) to cattle,
horses and dogs





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