

## Myths “Uprooted”

**Myth:** Rhododendrons are very poisonous.

**Fact:** The flower may cause sleepiness and irritate the stomach. It would take a large amount for major effects.



**Myth:** White berries are highly poisonous.

**Fact:** Most white berries are not poisonous. Tasting one will probably not hurt you, but it is always best not to guess.

**Myth:** Poinsettias are very poisonous.

**Fact:** Poinsettias may irritate the mouth, stomach or skin, but they are not very toxic.



**Myth:** A poison ivy rash is contagious.

**Fact:** The rash is a reaction to its oil. Once the oil is dry, it cannot spread to another person.

**Myth:** Mistletoe berries are deadly.

**Fact:** The berries may cause a stomachache.

**Myth:** All plants that are not toxic to humans are safe for animals.

**Fact:** Some plants that are not toxic to humans are harmful to animals (ex. lilies are toxic to cats but not to people). Some plants toxic to humans are safe for some animals.



**Myth:** All berries that taste bad are toxic.

**Fact:** Some toxic berries taste very good. Some nontoxic berries taste really bad. You cannot tell if a berry or plant is poisonous just from the taste.



## Poison First Aid

This first aid information does not take the place of expert advice. Always call the Poison Center right away.

### Inhaled Poison

Get to fresh air right away and avoid fumes. Open doors and windows wide.

### Poison on the Skin

Take off clothing the poison touched. Rinse skin with running water. Wash off with soap and water.

### Poison in the Eye

Run lukewarm tap water over eye for 20 min. Do not force the eyelid open.

### Swallowed Poison

Do not make the person vomit, drink or eat unless told by a poison expert.

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[www.wapc.org](http://www.wapc.org)



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**Poison Help & Information:**

**1 - 800 - 222 - 1222**

Language Line available in over 260 languages

TTY relay: 7-1-1

The Washington Poison Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, EIN 94-321459.

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## PREVENTION & TREATMENT GUIDE

### Plants

# Did you know...

# ...most Plants

are

# Not as

# Toxic

as you

# might think ?



# How can I prevent a poisoning from plants?

## Know and label your plants

Learn the common or botanical (scientific) name of plants in your home and yard and label them. If not known, take the plant or a cutting to a plant nursery or garden store. Write the name on tape (with water-proof ink) and attach it to the pot.



Note: It is very hard for the Poison Center to identify plants by phone—but can still help if an unknown plant or berry is eaten or touched.

## Keep out of reach

Keep seeds, bulbs, harmful plants and plant care products out of reach of children.



## Teach children

Teach children not to put leaves, flowers, seeds, nuts or berries in their mouth. Remind them:

**Look**  
*but don't lick*

**Admire**  
*but don't pick*

## Eat only safe mushrooms

Never eat wild mushrooms. Some that look safe to eat are poisonous. Mushrooms often grow after rainfall; remove any that are growing where children play.



## Be careful cooking

"Cooking" poisonous plants does not get rid of the poisons. Use only edible plants if you are making tea or medicine. Do not assume that a plant is safe for you if birds or other animals are eating it.

## Use plant products safely.

Follow all directions and wash hands after use. Keep products in their original containers. Spray plants on calm days, downwind, and away from you and others. Do not let anyone walk on a sprayed lawn until it is dry.



## Wear safety gear

Wear pants, long sleeve shirt, and gloves when working in unfamiliar outdoor areas. When burning plants, wear a mask and avoid the smoke.

# Where can I get a list of poisonous plants?

Lists of safe vs. unsafe plants are never complete and can be hard to understand. Some toxic plants look like nontoxic plants when trying to name it by a photograph. It is best when buying a plant to double check its toxicity. You can also take the plant or clippings to your local garden store to have it identified, then call the Poison Center to find out if it is toxic.

Some examples of poisonous plants are:

- Azalea / Rhododendron
- Daffodil
- Dieffenbachia
- Foxglove
- Laurel
- Lilly of the Valley
- Nightshade
- Poison Hemlock

Visit the Poison Center's website

**[www.wapc.org](http://www.wapc.org)**

for a printable list of the most common safe and unsafe plants.

**Call the Washington Poison Center for free and confidential expert poison information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.**

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