

HEALTH & SAFETY - PLANTS

POLICY

Many common indoor and outdoor plants pose a health risk if consumed. Some plants cause skin irritation on contact. As with other hazardous items it is necessary that children are protected from the risks associated with poisonous vegetation.

Some common garden plants can be a hazard for children. They may cause rashes and irritation to the skin when brushed against. Their scent may affect children with asthma or allergies and also attract bees. They may be poisonous when eaten or they may have berries that can be ingested and cause choking.

<u>Common name of plant:</u>	<u>Toxic parts of plant:</u>
Almond and apricot.....	kernel
Castor oil plant.....	seeds
Crepe Jasmine	all plant
Daffodil	sap and bulb
Deadly Nightshade	berries
Dumbcane	berries
English Ivy	all plant
Jonquil	sap and bulb
Labernum	all plant
Lantana.....	green fruit
Oleander and Yellow Oleander	all plant
Paspalum.....	all plant
Peach	kernel, flower, leaf and bark
Poinsettia.....	sap
Poison Ivy	sap, leaves, and fruit
Potatoes	when skin is green
Rhubarb.....	leaf blade
Scarlet Rhus.....	all plant and smoke when burnt
Toadstools	all plant

Adapted from an article 'Pretty, but Dangerous'. Choice - April, 1983

PROCEDURE

1. The Educator must identify any poisonous vegetation on the premises and shall ensure that the vegetation is not accessible to children. Particular vigilance is required to ensure children do not come into contact with plants with poisonous berries in the FDC yard or when on excursions.
2. Any plants that can lead to injury or severe discomfort, eg. because of sharp prickles or prominent thorns should not be accessible to children. The Educator should monitor plant growth in spring and cut back or weed out any hazardous plants.

Source: Mt Alexander FDC handbook
 National Law, Regulations and Standards (ACECQA 2011)
 Kidsafe Guidelines
 Choice Magazine – April 1983 per Environmental Health Dept

Reviewed September 2005, September 2008, July 2009, July 2012