



## HOUSEPLANTS: Safe & Poisonous Varieties

A poisonous plant is one that contains a chemical substance which produces a harmful reaction in the body of humans or animals when taken in small or moderate amounts. A harmful reaction could include allergic reactions, dermatitis or skin irritation, or internal poisoning. Allergic reactions are not always classified as poisoning and will not be treated as such here. This is because there is a wide range of plants that can cause allergic reactions, and sensitivity to a plant varies among individuals. Also, individuals can react in different ways after contact with a poisonous plant depending on their sensitivity level.

Houseplant owners need to be aware of the potential problems that plants with toxic properties might cause.

- Be aware of the identity of your houseplants and learn if they pose potential threats to children and pets.
- If you cannot identify a houseplant, call your local Extension Center or the Home and Garden Education Center for assistance.
- It is also important to realize that many plants need to be consumed in considerable quantities for poisoning to occur. Often poisonous plants taste bitter or acrid and children and pets may not ingest large amounts. Young children, especially, should be taught not to put unknown plants or plant parts in their mouths.
- Any plant may cause a reaction in certain people.
- If a plant is eaten, remove the rest from the mouth and rinse the mouth with water.
- If a houseplant or natural decoration is ingested by children or pets and poisoning is suspected, call your family doctor, nearest emergency room or veterinarian immediately.
- The number for the National Poison Center is (800) 222-1222. They can tell you if a plant is poisonous and what symptoms might be expected with a particular toxin. You will need to provide them with the identity of the plant, however.

### References:

A Guide to House Plant Poisoning, Prevention and Treatment,  
University of Utah Health Sciences Center, Salt Lake  
City Utah, 2000.<http://uuhsc.utah.edu/pated/handouts/handout.cfm?id=2167>  
Barkley, Shelley. Poisonous House Plants, Government of Alberta Canada, 2005.  
[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/webdoc1376](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/webdoc1376)  
<http://www.serenataflowers.com/Poisonous-Flowers-and-Plants>  
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## The following is a list of plants considered toxic. ⚠️

Remember that plants may contain a variety of poisons. They may cause symptoms ranging from a mild stomach ache to serious heart and kidney problems

Common Name:	Botanical Name:	Common Name:	Botanical Name:
Amaryllis	Hippeastrum spp.	Hyacinth	Hyacinthus orientalis
Anthurium	Anthurium spp.	Jerusalem Cherry	Solanum
Apricot kernels	Prunus armeniaca	Oleander	Nerium oleander
Caladium	Caladium bicolor	Philodendron	Philodendron spp.
Calla Lily	Calla palustris	Ranunculus	Ranunculus spp.
Chinese Evergreen	Aglaonema spp.	Schefflera	Schefflera actinophylla
Colchicum	Colchicum autumnale	Spathiphyllum	Spathiphyllum spp.
Daffodil	Narcissus spp.		
Dumb Cane	Dieffenbachia spp.		
Elephant's Ear	Colocasia antiquorum		
English Ivy	Hedera helix		
Fishtail Palm	Caryota spp.		

## Plants listed below are considered safe and not poisonous. 👍

Although eating or touching these plants is unlikely to cause illness, any plant might cause a reaction in certain sensitive individuals.

Common Name:	Botanical Name:	Common Name:	Botanical Name:
African daisy	Dimorphotheca aurantiaca	Echeveria	Echeveria spp.
African Violet	Saintpaulia ionantha	Figs; Weep & Fiddle	Ficus spp.
Aluminum Plant	Pilea spp.	Goldfish Plant	Columnea spp.
Baby's Tears	Soleiria soleirolii	Jade Plant	Crassula argentea
Bamboo,	Golden Phyllostachys aurea	Japanese Aralia	Fatsia japonica
Bird of Paradise	Strelitzia reginae	Kalanchoe	Kalanchoe spp.
Bird's Nest Fern	Asplenium nidus	Lipstick Plant	Aeschynanthus spp.
Boston Fern	Nephrolepis exaltata	Maidenhair Fern	Adiantum spp.
Camellia	Camellia sinensis	Nerve Plant	Fittonia spp.
Cast Iron Plant	Aspidistra elatior		
Christmas Cactus	Schlumbergera bridgesii		
Coleus	Coleus hybridus		
Corn Plant	Dracaena sp.		
Donkey's tail	Sedum morganianum		
Dracaena	Dracaena spp.		

