

# Beware of Plants that Poison

Below are the most commonly found poisonous plants in the Midwest.

\*Note: this is not a complete list.

## Ways to be Safe.

The best way to avoid a poisoning is to prevent it from happening. Reduce the risk of accidental poisoning by "Poison proofing" your home before your child is born.

If you can not identify a plant inside or outside the house, take a sample to the nearest greenhouse, so the plant can be identified.

Label your plants both inside and outside the house in case of an emergency.

Do not force vomiting or first aid that you are not familiar with, call your poison control center or 911.

## How to Prevent Plant Poisoning:

Teach your children never to put plants, plant parts, berries or mushrooms in their mouth. Know the names of your house and garden plants and which ones are poisonous. Put poisonous house plants, bulbs, and seeds up high where children cannot reach them. Do not think a plant is not poisonous because birds or other animals eat it. Call your doctor or poison center for professional advise if your child

eats anything poisonous. Keep a sample of the plant. Beware of Plants that Poison.

All plants are listed as dangerous or deadly. It is often hard to identify which mushrooms are safe to eat, so it is best to not eat any wild mushrooms. Many mushrooms may be fatal.

## What to do if a poisoning exposure occurs:

1. Remain calm.
2. If you have a poison emergency and the victim has collapsed or is not breathing call 911.
3. If you have a poison exposure and the victim is alert call 1-800-222-1222. Try to have the following information ready if possible:
  - a. The person's age and estimated weight
  - b. The container or bottle of the poisonous product, if available
  - c. Time that the poison exposure occurred
  - d. Your name and phone number
4. Follow the instructions from the emergency operator or the poison control center.

**In case of  
a poison  
emergency  
call:  
1-800-222-1222**



**Autumn Crocus**

**Toxic parts:** Bulbs, flowers, leaves.  
**Symptoms:** Deadly. Vomiting, jittery, burning of mouth, upset stomach.  
**Maturity:** Leaves are about a foot long.



**Azaleas**

**Toxic parts:** All parts.  
**Symptoms:** Deadly. Vomiting, trouble breathing, convulsions, and heart trouble.  
**Maturity:** Flower-w/ white, pink, red, yellow, or orange Petals.



**Black Locust**

**Toxic parts:** Bark, seeds, leaves.  
**Symptoms:** Dangerous. Upset stomach and weakness.  
**Maturity:** Moderate sized tree.



**Boxwood**

**Toxic Parts:** Leaves, twigs.  
**Symptoms:** Deadly. Upset stomach, vomiting, diarrhea, trouble breathing.  
**Maturity:** 12 -15 feet high, w/ a Trunk about 6" in diameter.



**Buttercup**

**Toxic parts:** All parts.  
**Symptoms:** Dangerous. Burns skin and stomach.  
**Maturity:** Three parted leaves; flowers have 5 green petals and 5 yellow petals.



**Caladium**

**Toxic parts:** All parts.  
**Symptoms:** Burning of mouth and tongue. Deadly if tongue swells and blocks air to throat.  
**Maturity:** Leaves may grow from 6" to 2 feet in length.



**Calla Lily**

**Toxic parts:** All parts.  
**Symptoms:** Burning of mouth and tongue. Deadly if tongue swells and blocks air to throat.  
**Maturity:** Leaf is 6"-9" and tapers to a point.



**Castor Bean**

**Toxic parts:** Seeds.  
**Symptoms:** Deadly. Burning mouth and throat, dizziness, upset stomach, convulsions. Commonly made into necklaces.  
**Maturity:** 12 ft. / leaves 4"-30" / petals 5-9



**Chokecherry**

**Toxic parts:** Twigs, foliage.  
**Symptoms:** Dangerous. Gasping, jittery, collapse, sudden death.  
**Maturity:** 30 ft. tall, leaves 2-4" long and 1-2" wide.



**Daffodil**

**Toxic parts:** All parts, especially the bulbs.  
**Symptoms:** Deadly. Upset stomach, diarrhea, jittery, convulsions.  
**Maturity:** Green linear leaves about a foot long with golden flowers.



**Daphne**

**Toxic parts:** All parts.  
**Symptoms:** Deadly. Even a few berries can cause diarrhea, convulsions, and death.  
**Maturity:** Leaves are 2-3" long. Flowers are 1/4" long.



**Deadly Nightshade**

**Toxic parts:** All parts, unripe berry.  
**Symptoms:** Deadly. Upset stomach, jittery, weakness.  
**Maturity:** 1 1/2 -5" tall. Leaves 3-10" long.



**Dieffenbachia**

**Toxic parts:** All parts.  
**Symptoms:** Burning of mouth and tongue. Deadly if tongue swells and blocks air to throat.  
**Maturity:** Large leaves, dark green and light green.



**Dutchman's Breeches**

**Toxic parts:** All parts.  
**Symptoms:** Trembling, staggering, convulsions, trouble breathing.  
**Maturity:** 1-10 flowers on showy stalks, heart shaped.



**Elderberry**

**Toxic parts:** Roots, leaves, stems.  
**Symptoms:** Dangerous. Upset stomach.  
**Maturity:** 12 ft. high.



**English Ivy**

**Toxic parts:** Leaves, berries.  
**Symptoms:** Deadly. Upset stomach, vomiting, diarrhea, trouble breathing.  
**Maturity:** Either grows in a bushy form along the ground or up a standing support like a wall.



**Foxglove**

**Toxic parts:** Leaves, seeds, flowers.  
**Symptoms:** Deadly. Affects heart, upset stomach, mental confusion, convulsions.  
**Maturity:** Flowers 1.5 -2.5" long. 3-4' tall .



**Golden Chain**

**Toxic parts:** Flowers, bean-like capsules with seeds.  
**Symptoms:** Deadly. Jittery, upset stomach, convulsions, unconsciousness.  
**Maturity:** 3-5" high bearing clusters of flowers.



**Horsechestnut**

**Toxic parts:** Flowers, seeds, sprouts, leaves.  
**Symptoms:** Deadly. Upset stomach, weakness, changing moods.  
**Maturity:** Medium size tree, bearing five leaflets. Seeds are glossy and a leathery brown.



**Iris**

**Toxic parts:** Bulb, leaves.  
**Symptoms:** Dangerous. Upset stomach.  
**Maturity:** Lower leaves grow up to 3'. Flowers come in variety of colors.



**Jack-in-the-Pulpit**

**Toxic parts:** All parts.  
**Symptoms:** Dangerous. Burning of mouth and tongue.  
**Maturity:** 1-2 ft tall.



**Jerusalem Cherry**

**Toxic parts:** Leaves, green fruit.  
**Symptoms:** Deadly. Upset stomach, jittery, unconsciousness .  
**Maturity:** Leaf 3" long.



**Jessamine**

**Toxic parts:** All parts.  
**Symptoms:** Deadly. Upset stomach, jittery, weakness.  
**Maturity:** 12-20", Flowers are white or yellow.



**Jimson Weed**

**Toxic parts:** All parts.  
**Symptoms:** Deadly. Thirsty, dizzy, mental confusion, convulsions, unconsciousness.  
**Maturity:** 5' green and purple leaves



**Lantana Camara (Red Sage, Wild Sage).**

**Toxic part:** Green berries.  
**Symptoms:** Deadly. Weakness, upset stomach, staggering.  
**Maturity:** Branching shrub 0.5-2m in height.



**Larkspur**

**Toxic parts:** Young plant, seeds.  
**Symptoms:** Deadly. Upset stomach, dizziness, depression.  
**Maturity:** 1/2 -4 ft high.



**Lily-of-the-Valley**

**Toxic parts:** All parts.  
**Symptoms:** Dangerous. Upset stomach, affects heart. flowers contain sap that attracts bees.



**Monkshood**

**Toxic parts:** All parts.  
**Symptoms:** Dangerous. Upset stomach, jittery, heart trouble, trouble breathing.  
**Maturity:** Stem is about 3 ft. high with purple flowers.



**Moonseed**

**Toxic part:** Berries.  
**Symptoms:** Dangerous. Upset stomach.  
**Maturity:** Climbing, woody plant flower looks like wild grapes but berries have only 1 seed each.



**Oleander**

**Toxic parts:** Leaves, branches, flowers.  
**Symptoms:** Deadly. Heart trouble, upset stomach, and unconsciousness.  
**Maturity:** Leaves 8-10" long, flower 1-3" round.



**Philodendron**

**Toxic parts:** All parts.  
**Symptoms:** Burning of mouth and tongue. Deadly if tongue swells and blocks air to throat.  
**Maturity:** Shrub, two forms heart or tree shaped leaves.



**Poison Hemlock**

**Toxic parts:** All parts, especially the roots.  
**Symptoms:** Deadly. Upset stomach, weakness, jittery, mental confusion, convulsions, sudden death.  
**Maturity:** 3-8" w/ purple spotted stem.



**Pokeweed**

**Toxic parts:** All parts, especially the roots.  
**Symptoms:** Deadly. Burning of mouth, upset stomach, trouble breathing, weakness, and convulsions.  
**Maturity:** Up to 10" (purplish stem)



**Rosary Pea**

**Toxic parts:** Seeds.  
**Symptoms:** Deadly. Burning mouth and throat, dizziness, convulsions. Commonly made into necklaces.  
**Maturity:** Seedpod is 1.5" long, has 8-15 leaflets.



**Rhubarb**

**Toxic parts:** Leaf blade.  
**Symptoms:** Deadly. Raw or cooked leaves cause upset stomach, convulsions, and unconsciousness.  
**Maturity:** 1-2', Leaves are 1/2- 1 1/2ft wide leaves.



**Star-of-Bethlehem**

**Toxic parts:** Bulbs, leaves.  
**Symptoms:** Dangerous. Vomiting, jittery.  
**Maturity:** Central flower 4-12" long, w/ Star shaped flowers.



**Tansy**

**Toxic parts:** Leaves/flowers.  
**Symptoms:** Dangerous. Upset stomach, numbness.  
**Maturity:** Perennial herbs from a short stout rootstock and bear alternate fern like leaves. Strong bitter- taste.



**Water Hemlock**

**Toxic parts:** All parts.  
**Symptoms:** Deadly. Violent convulsions, upset stomach, weakness, cold hands and feet.  
**Maturity:** 7' from its cluster at maturity.



**Wisteria**

**Toxic parts:** All parts.  
**Symptoms:** Deadly. Common poison. Upset stomach, collapse, trouble breathing.  
**Maturity:** Blooms 6-12 inches long and leaflets numbering 9-15.



**Yew**

**Toxic parts:** Leaves, stems, seeds.  
**Symptoms:** Deadly. Maturity: 1/2-1" long leaves. (broader than pine needles).

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