

## 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 proven safe.



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

**Fact:** The rash is a reaction to its oil. Once the oil is dry, it cannot be 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 poisonous.

**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 10 min. Do not force the eyelid open.

### Swallowed Poison

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

### Be Prepared

Keep *Syrup of Ipecac* (a drug that makes you vomit) at home. **Always** call the Poison Center before using.

### Follow the WAPC online:

www.wapc.org  
Facebook: MrYukWa  
Twitter: MRYUKWA

### Poison Help & Information:

**1-800-222-1222**

Language Line available for non-English speakers

TTY relay: 7-1-1



The Washington Poison Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, EIN 94-3214597.

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

## PREVENTION & TREATMENT GUIDE

### Plants

# Did you know...

...most **Plants** are **Not** as **Toxic** as you

might think

# ?



WASHINGTON  
POISON  
CENTER  
1-800-222-1222



## 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, bring the plant or a cutting to a plant nursery or garden store. Write the name on tape (with waterproof 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 and pets.

### Teach children

Teach children not to put leaves, flowers, seeds, nuts or berries in their mouth. Remind them to “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 and pets 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 your hands after use. Keep products in their original containers. Spray plants on calm days, downwind and away from you, pets and others. Do not let any pet or person 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.



## What about plants and my pet?

Pets need to be kept safe just like children. Plants and pesticides, as well as other poisons, can cause problems for animals. Some plants that are not harmful to humans may be a danger to some animals—know what plants are not safe for your animal.



**Due to cuts in Washington State funding, the Washington Poison Center must now charge a \$30 credit card fee for calls about pets and animals.**

## 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. For plants you currently have, bring them or clippings to your local garden store. Visit the Poison Center’s website [wapc.org](http://wapc.org) for a general list.

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

(\$30 credit card fee applies for calls about animals)

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