

Poison Ivy



All parts of the poison ivy plant are toxic. Common symptoms include itching and a rash with blisters. Exposure may appear within 30 minutes to five days. Symptoms can spread to other people by contact with plant oils, which can cling to clothing or furniture. Severity depends on individual sensitivity.

Oleander



The flowers, stems and leaves of the oleander plant are toxic. If swallowed, symptoms may include blurred vision, diarrhea, vomiting, low blood pressure, confusion, fainting or death.

Yew



All parts of the yew plant are toxic. If swallowed, common symptoms include nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain and headache. Seizures, low blood pressure and irregular heartbeat are possible with large ingestions.

Pokeweed



All parts of pokeweed are toxic. If swallowed, symptoms are usually self-limiting and include severe vomiting, frothy diarrhea and a burning sensation in the mouth. Intestinal bleeding is possible. May cause kidney damage, seizures and coma.

Steps to Take After Exposure to a Poisonous Plant

- Save any remaining pieces of the plant or mushroom for possible identification. Save mushroom pieces in a brown paper sack.
- Call the Oklahoma Center for Poison and Drug Information at 1-800-222-1222 so that appropriate treatment advice can be given.
- Do not wait for symptoms to appear!

Mouth

- Remove any portion of the plant from the mouth.
- Do NOT induce vomiting.
- Rinse out mouth with water or wipe with a wet cloth. Check for irritation or swelling.

Skin

- Remove contaminated clothing and wash skin well with soap and water.
- Wash anything else that may have been in contact with the plant such as clothing, pets or camping gear.

Eyes

- Gently rinse eye with room temperature water for 15 minutes.
- Wash hands with soap and water to avoid re-introducing any irritants if the eye is rubbed.

The Oklahoma Center for Poison and Drug Information is staffed 24 hours a day by medical professionals with advanced training in toxicology. Our specialists can provide immediate assistance and answer your questions about plants.



Poisonous Plants of Oklahoma



Oklahoma Center for
Poison & Drug Information

(800) 222-1222

Around the House

Many house plants and outdoor ornaments contain chemicals called oxalates in the leaves and other parts of the plant that can cause problems. Just touching the plant isn't a problem; but if the plant is chewed or the juice from a broken leaf, flower, or stem is swallowed, or gets in the eyes or on the skin, symptoms may occur.



Dieffenbachia

Eye exposure can cause severe pain, light sensitivity, tears, swelling of the eyelids or damage to the cornea. Skin exposure may cause a rash, itching and blisters.



Caladium

Chewing on any part of these plants may result in redness, pain, swelling of the lips, tongue, and inside of the mouth as well as difficulty swallowing. In rare cases, the swelling can be bad enough to interfere with breathing. Swallowing a large amount can also cause kidney problems.



English ivy

Four plants which contain oxalates are pictured to the left. These are not the only plants that contain these chemicals: if you have any questions about plants in and around your home, contact the Oklahoma Center for Poison and Drug Information at 1-800-222-1222.



Peace lily

Prevention

You can prevent contact with poisonous plants by taking these steps:

- Wear long sleeves, long pants, boots and gloves when there is the possibility that you may come in contact with poisonous plants.
- Wash exposed clothing separately in hot water with detergent after exposure.
- Do not burn plants that may be poison ivy, poison oak, or poison sumac. The smoke may blow onto you or someone downwind and cause severe, allergic skin and breathing problems.
- Keep plants, seeds, berries and bulbs stored safely away from pets and children.
- Know the names of any houseplants you keep, as well as plants that grow in your yard.
- Do not allow children to suck on flowers or make "tea" with plants and flowers. Teach children at an early age to keep plants out of their mouths.
- Remove all mushrooms from your yard.
- Do not make hot dog roasting sticks from unknown bushes.
- If you see a bird eating a plant or berry, this does NOT mean it is safe for humans. Plants that are safe for birds and animals may be poisonous to humans.

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Do not wait for symptoms to appear. Call the poison center right away.



Azalea

All parts of the azalea are toxic. If swallowed, common symptoms include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, sweating, confusion, seizures, and death.



Autumn Crocus

All parts of the autumn crocus are toxic. If swallowed, common symptoms include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, rapid heart rate and chest pain. More severe symptoms may include low heart rate, low blood pressure, or seizures.



Castor Bean seeds

Castor Bean

The whole plant is toxic. The seeds, which contain ricin, are especially dangerous to both humans and animals. Symptoms may include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and severe abdominal pain. Can result in dehydration and low blood pressure, with severe toxicity resulting in death.



Daffodil

All parts of the daffodil are toxic, with the bulbs having the highest toxicity. Chewing on any part of the plant can cause pain inside the mouth. Vomiting and diarrhea may be the first sign of exposure.



Death Camas

All parts of this plant are potentially toxic if eaten in quantity. Because of its similar appearance, the death camas can be mistaken for a wild onion. Vomiting and diarrhea are common symptoms after ingestion. Itching and rash may result after contact with the skin.



Foxglove

All parts of the foxglove are toxic. The most common effects after eating are nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, fatigue and slow heart rate. Severe toxicity can cause shock, agitation and confusion. Life-threatening poisoning has been reported after ingestion of plant extracts, teas, contaminated herbal products and deliberate ingestion of large amounts of the plant.



Hemlock

All parts of the hemlock plant are very toxic. Hemlock is often mistaken for wild parsley. If swallowed, common symptoms include burning sensation in the mouth, nausea and vomiting. Severe symptoms may include difficulty breathing and death.



Holly

Holly berries are mildly toxic. If several berries are swallowed, the results may include mild nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain. The spiny leaves can cause irritation to the mouth but are considered non-toxic.



Jimson Weed

Also known as moon flower and loco weed. Common symptoms include dilated pupils, red skin, dry mouth, increased heart rate, nausea and vomiting. Agitation, hallucinations and confusion are seen with moderate toxicity. In severe cases, symptoms can include delirium, psychosis, seizures and coma.



Morning Glory

Morning Glory seeds may contain toxins that can cause hallucinations, dizziness, paranoia, anxiety, large pupils and changes in mood.



Mushrooms

The toxins vary depending upon the type of mushroom ingested. Though severe toxicity is uncommon, certain types of mushrooms can cause liver failure or other severe health problems. Mushrooms that are dangerous may look similar to those which are safe to eat. Nausea and vomiting are common initial symptoms.



Silverleaf Nightshade

Nightshade leaves and berries are toxic. If swallowed, common symptoms include nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Drowsiness and slow heart rate are possible but uncommon.

**This is not a complete list of poisonous plants found in Oklahoma.
For additional information, visit our website at OklahomaPoison.org or call us at 1-800-222-1222**