



Dieffenbachia

PLANT SAFETY

PREVENT PLANT POISONING



Nandina Berries

VIRGINIA POISON CENTER

The Virginia Poison Center receives many calls about children and adults who have either touched or eaten poisonous plants, berries, seeds, or wild mushrooms. If you think any part of a plant has been chewed or swallowed, call the Virginia Poison Center **right away!** Do not wait to see if the person becomes ill, because there are poisons that cause no visible problems until many hours after being swallowed. Be ready to tell the poison center:

Name of the Plant (if known).

How much and what part was eaten?

When was it eaten or touched?

Age of child or adult.

Any signs of illness?

The poison specialist will inform a caller on what treatment needs to be given and what signs to observe for after an exposure. Unfortunately, it is difficult to accurately identify plants over the phone.

PREVENTION

- ⇒ Keep poisonous house plants out of reach of children and pets.
- ⇒ Store bulbs and seeds out of sight and out of reach in a dry place.
- ⇒ Know the BOTANICAL and the COMMON names of plants around your home and yard. (Contact local greenhouses, plant nursery, or extension agent for help)
- ⇒ Do NOT assume that a plant is not poisonous because animals or birds eat them.
- ⇒ Do not rely on cooking to destroy toxic chemicals in plants. Many plant toxins are not altered by heat.
- ⇒ Never eat wild plants or mushrooms.
- ⇒ Teach your children to never put plants or mushrooms into their mouths.
- ⇒ Have a resource book for the babysitter to include information on the plants in your home and yard.
- ⇒ Do not suck nectar or make teas from flowers or leaves.
- ⇒ Commercially made jewelry and craft items may contain poisonous seeds.
- ⇒ Fruit pits and seeds from apples, apricots, cherries, nectarines, and peaches are poisonous, but only if chewed and eaten in large amounts. One or two seeds will not cause illness.

CALL the Virginia Poison Center 1-800-222-1222 24/7, FREE, EXPERT ADVICE



MUSHROOM SAFETY



Poisonous and non-poisonous mushrooms grow side by side. Only a mushroom expert, called a mycologist, can tell the difference between mushrooms. It is dangerous to eat any mushroom that you have found outdoors. Cooking outdoor mushrooms does NOT make them safe to eat. Even small parts of some mushrooms can cause sickness and death. Signs of illness may be delayed for many hours to a day. If someone has eaten wild mushrooms, call the Virginia Poison Center immediately at 1-800-222-1222. Always remove mushrooms that begin to grow in your yard before children play outside.

MINIMALLY* OR NOT POISONOUS

African Violet
 Alyssum
 Asparagus Fern
 Astilbe
 Baby's Breath *
 Baby's Tears
 Bachelors Buttons
 Black-eyed Susan *
 Boston Fern
 Chinese Evergreen
 Christmas Cactus
 Coleus *
 Coral Bells
 Crocus (Spring only)
 Dahlia *
 Dandelion
 Daylily *
 Dracaena
 Easter Lilly
 Evening Primrose
 Ficus Benjamina *
 Freesia
 Fuchsia
 Gardenia *
 Gloxinia
 Grape Hyacinth
 Hens & Chicks
 Hibiscus *
 Hollyhock
 Honey Locust
 Impatiens

Jade Plant
 Maple
 (seeds/young leaves)
 Marigold *
 Money Plant
 Mulberry
 Peperomia
 Persian Violet
 Petunia
 Phlox
 Poinsettia *
 Polka-dot Plant
 Portulaca
 Prayer Plant
 Primrose *
 Purple Coneflower
 Rose *
 Rubber Plant *
 Schefflera *
 Snapdragon
 Spider Plant
 Statice *
 Tulip *
 Wandering Jew *
 Weeping Fig *

FIRST AID

- ⇒ Do NOT taste the plant yourself.
- ⇒ **Call 911** if anyone is choking, having difficulty breathing or swallowing, or is unconscious.

If the individual appears well:

- ⇒ Remove loose pieces of plant material from the mouth.
- ⇒ Offer ice chips or small sips of water to drink.
- ⇒ Do NOT make your child throw up.
- ⇒ Wash exposed skin with lots of soap and water.
- ⇒ **Call the Virginia Poison Center**
1-800-222-1222

POTENTIALLY POISONOUS PLANTS

Amaryllis
 Angel's Trumpet
 Arrowhead Vine
 Autumn Crocus
 Azalea
 Bittersweet
 Black Locust
 Boston Ivy
 Caladium
 Calla Lilly
 Castor Bean
 Chinese Lantern Plant
 Chrysanthemum
 Clematis
 Cotoneaster
 Croton
 Cyclamen
 Daffodil
 Daisy
 Delphinium
 Dieffenbachia
 Dumb Cane

Elephant's Ear
 English Ivy
 Eucalyptus
 Euonymus
 Foxglove
 Gladiola
 Holly
 Horse Chestnut
 Hyacinth
 Hydrangea
 Iris
 Jack-in-the-Pulpit
 Jequirity Bean
 Jerusalem Cherry
 Jimson Weed
 Larkspur
 Lilly-of-the-Valley
 Lobelia
 Lupine
 Marijuana
 Milkweed
 Mistletoe

Mistletoe
 Monkshood
 Morning Gory
 Mother-in-law Plant
 Mother-in-law's
 Tongue Plant
 Narcissus
 Nightshade
 Oleander
 Peony
 Periwinkle (Vinca)
 Philodendron
 Poison Ivy
 Poison Oak
 Pokeweed
 Potato (all green parts)
 Pothos
 Rhododendron
 Rhubarb Leaves
 Rosary Bean
 Snake Berry
 Snow on the Mountain
 Star of Bethlehem
 St. John's Wort
 Tobacco
 Tomato
 (plant/green fruit)
 Virginia Creeper
 Water Hemlock
 Wisteria
 Yew

Virginia Poison Center
VCU Health System
P.O. Box 980522
Richmond, Va. 23294
Office (804) 828-4780

POISON
Help

1-800-222-1222