

**CALL 1-800-222-1222**  
**IF YOU THINK**  
**SOMEONE HAS EATEN**  
**A PLANT THAT COULD**  
**BE DANGEROUS.**

Most plants are not dangerous, unless large amounts are eaten; however, others can be very dangerous even in small amounts:

- Oleander
- Jimson Weed
- Castor beans
- Trumpet flower
- Mushrooms



**Castor Beans**

Eating any of the following plants can cause pain and irritation to the lips, tongue and mouth, making it hard to talk or swallow:

- Dumb Cane or Diffenbachia
- Elephant's Ears
- Philodendron
- Peace Lily



**Diffenbachia**

## TREATMENT AND PREVENTION

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- Protect yourself while working outdoors by wearing gloves and safety glasses.
  - Place seeds, bulbs and plants out of reach of children.
  - If someone has eaten a plant and you are concerned, call the poison center at 1-800-222-1222.
  - If you get a rash or have itching or pain after touching a plant, wash the area with soap and water then call the poison center at 1-800-222-1222.
  - If your eye is burning, red or watering from a plant, rinse your eye with lukewarm water for 10 to 15 minutes, and then call the poison center at 1-800-222-1222.
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**POISON CENTER 1-800-222-1222**

[poisoncontrol.org](http://poisoncontrol.org)

**POISON**  
**Help**  
**1-800-222-1222**

# GUIDE FOR PLANT SAFETY



**TEXAS POISON CENTER NETWORK**  
[poisoncontrol.org](http://poisoncontrol.org)

**POISON**  
**Help**  
**1-800-222-1222**

Call **1-800-222-1222** to reach your local poison center.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Poison centers in the U.S. answer more than 40,000 calls per year regarding plants.
- Poison centers receive many calls related to burning caused by eating or touching hot peppers. Always wear gloves when handling hot peppers.



**Habanero and Jalapeno Peppers**

- Most plants are only dangerous if a large quantity of the leaves, berries, stems, or seeds are eaten.
- Some food type plants, such as potatoes, mushrooms, and tomatoes have poisonous parts (stems and leaves). These can still be dangerous even after cooking.

## ITCHY PLANTS



There are many plants that can cause mild to severe irritation on your skin that may be itchy.

Poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac, have an oil in it called urushiol, which can cause severe itching if it gets on your skin.

- If you have been in a patch of poison ivy, poison sumac or poison oak, wash your skin as soon as possible. Also wash your clothes and shoes. This may help avoid getting or spreading the rash.
- If you develop a rash, keep the area clean and dry. You can apply over-the-counter itch creams. Call your local poison center or ask your pharmacist which one is best.
- If the rash gets worse see a doctor; or call your local poison center for assistance.

## SAFETY TIPS

Here are a few tips you can follow to avoid any issues with plants:

- Kids are drawn to colorful items like berries. Keep an eye out for plants that may have berries or fruit that your child may be interested in.
- You can take the plant or a picture of the plant along with a leaf, stem or berry to your local plant nursery to find out if the plant is dangerous.
- When doing yard work, wear gloves and eye protection. You may also need to wear long sleeves and pants to protect your skin.
- Some holiday plants such as mistletoe, holly berries and Jerusalem Cherry can cause illness. To learn more about your favorite holiday plants, call your local poison center at 1-800-222-1222.
- Know the names of plants, trees, shrubs and flowers in and around your home.



**Mistletoe**

**Emergency. Information. Prevention.**

**CALL US FIRST,  
24 HOURS A DAY,  
365 DAYS A YEAR!**

**OUR SERVICES ARE FREE**