Poisonous Plants to Avoid

The plants listed in this brochure are just a sample of the poisonous plants that can place a child's life at risk.

For a comprehensive listing of poisonous plants and planting suggestions refer to the Kidsafe NSW Playground Advisory Unit's Plants for Playspaces.

In cases of suspected poisoning you can get advice 24 hours a day from POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE 13 11 26

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This brochure was originally developed by Kidsafe Tasmania Inc.

Contact us for more information:

Are they in your garden?

- Arum Lily
  Zantedeschia aethiopica
  All parts

- Castor Oil Plant
  Ricinus communis
  Seeds

- Deadly Nightshade
  Atropa belladonna
  Berries

- Lily of the Valley
  Convallaria majalis
  All parts

- Oleander
  Nerium oleander
  All parts

- Poinsettia
  Euphorbia pulcherrima
  All parts including the sap

- Rosary Bean
  Abrus precatorius
  Seeds

- Mushrooms
  Amanita spp. & Agaricus xanthodermus
  All parts

- White Cedar Tree
  Melia azedarach
  Fruit

- Yellow Oleander
  Thevetia spp.
  All parts
Many of us would never suspect that common garden plants can put a child’s life in danger.

In a number of plants, only some parts are poisonous, such as the leaves, the seeds or the bulbs. In other plants, everything is poisonous.

Fortunately nature protects children to a large extent. The attractive leaves and berries in toxic plants taste vile enough to put off the most adventurous eater.

But we can’t be too careful. Take the time to find out some of the dangers which might be hiding in your garden.

Find out if any plants in your garden are poisonous, remove them or keep children well away from them.

**Deadly Nightshade**  
Atropa belladonna  
The round purple/black berries are appealing to children and highly toxic.  
**Symptoms:** Dry throat, thirstiness, palpitations and flushed dry skin.

**Rosary Bean**  
Abrus precatorius  
The seeds of this native Australian plant are very attractive, and very poisonous. One crushed seed contains enough toxins to kill an adult.  
**Symptoms:** Vomiting, diarrhoea, weak pulse, circulatory collapse, coma, potential death.

**Mushrooms**  
Amanita spp. & Agaricus xanthodermus  
These fungi are very common in lawns and moist areas. All parts of the fungi are poisonous.  
**Symptoms:** Severe abdominal pain, excessive thirst, vomiting, diarrhoea, lowered blood pressure.

**White Cedar Tree**  
Melia azedarach  
Large trees growing to heights of 30m that produce fleshy fruit. Six to eight fruits can be fatal for children.  
**Symptoms:** Nausea, spasms, vomiting, diarrhoea, severe thirst, cold sweats, grinding of teeth, sleepiness, paralysis, potential death.

**Yellow Oleander**  
Thevetia spp.  
All parts of this plant are poisonous, especially the kernels. One kernel can be lethal for infants.  
**Symptoms:** Burning sensation in the mouth, dry throat, vomiting, diarrhoea, shortness of breath, dilated pupils, slow irregular pulse followed by collapse and death in serious cases.

**Arum Lily**  
Zantedeschia aethiopica  
All parts of these common white lilies will cause burning in the mouth if eaten. Serious illness is uncommon as the burning prevents large quantities from being consumed.  
**Symptoms:** Burning mouth, skin rash.

**Oleander**  
Nerium oleander  
All parts of this plant, with flowers ranging from white to pink, apricot and red, are poisonous.  
**Symptoms:** Vomiting, stomach pain, blood stained faeces, dizziness, irregular heartbeat and unconsciousness. Death results from heart failure or respiratory paralysis.

**Lily of the Valley**  
Convallaria majalis  
All parts of this attractive garden plant are poisonous. The fruit are globular red berries about 12mm in diameter.  
**Symptoms:** Nausea, vomiting, headache, an excessive flow of saliva and eventually heart failure.

**Poinsettia**  
Euphorbia pulcherrima  
A popular pot plant with bright red, white or yellow leaves. Has a white, milky sap.  
**Symptoms:** The sap can cause extreme irritation to the skin and eyes. All parts are poisonous if eaten and can cause severe vomiting, purging, delirium, and can lead to death.