

Pioneer Homes Toxic Plant List

Many very common indoor and outdoor ornamental plants are considered to be toxic if ingested. The amount of poison in a plant tends to vary with location, age of plant, season and climate. In some the toxin is confined only to certain parts in others any part of the plant may cause symptoms. The following plants may cause moderate to very severe toxic symptoms when ingested or dermatitis when handled and may be found indoors or outdoors at the home. Live plants are not located in the Homestead unit.

House Plants

- **Aloe Vera** –The latex sap under the skin of the plant may cause vomiting if eaten
- **Amaryllis** - *Amaryllis belladonna* is an ornamental plant commonly sold for its winter flowers. Ingesting the bulbs has poisoned humans. Eating the bulb can cause Nausea, vomiting, salivation and diarrhea The toxic alkaloid, lycorine, is the principal toxin, although small quantities of related alkaloids are also present (Lampe and McCann 1985; Fuller and McClintock 1986).
- **Asparagus Fern** (*asparagus plumosus*) (*sprengeri*) –Eating the berries may cause gastrointestinal problems. Skin irritation with redness swelling and blisters may result following contact with the sap
- **Avocado** (*Persea americana*) is a common exotic fruit. The seeds are often planted to produce foliage plants in households. In California, Guatemalan cultivars have caused toxic affects in cattle, goats, rabbits, canaries, and fish. Family pets should be prevented from ingesting the leaves. The seeds have caused toxicity and death in canaries and have experimentally poisoned mice. Leaves should not be allowed to fall accidentally into fish tanks (Hurt 1943, Fuller and McClintock 1986).
- **Bird of Paradise** (*Poinciana gilliesii*) Eating the raw seeds or pads can cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and intestinal irritation.
- **Blue Gum** (*eucalyptus globulus*) Eating the leaves and/or bark can cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, coma. Eucalyptus oil is extremely toxic if eaten. Skin redness, irritation and burning can come from handling.
- **Buddist Pine** (*poddocarpus Macrophyllus*) The fleshy seeds can may cause nausea, vomiting and diarrhea
- **Cacti:** Ingesting any part of the plant may cause severe irritation of the mouth, throat and skin; temporary blindness; vomiting; diarrhea and stomach pain.
 - **Bunny Ears** (*opuntia microdasy's alkispina*)
 - **Candelabra Cactus** (*Euphorbia lactea*)
 - **Column** (*cereus peruvianus*)
 - **Rats Tail** (*aporocactus flagelliformis*)
 - **Sunset** (*lokwia famatimensis*)
- **Caladium** (*Caladium bicolor*) is a houseplant that can cause burning and irritation of the lips. The plant can be a problem to children who ingest the leaves as well as to family pets that might nibble on the foliage
- **Chrysanthemum Potted** (*Chrysanthemum indicum*) and cultivated hybrids (*C. X morifolium* Ramat.) are perennial ornamentals grown indoors and outdoors. Some humans develop contact dermatitis after extended exposure to garden chrysanthemums. This is an occupational hazard of florists, nursery workers, and gardeners. (Rook and Mitchell 1979, Frohne and Pfander 1983)..
- **Crown Of Thorns** (*euphorbia millii splendens*) is an indoor ornamental plant. The plant contains caustic and irritant chemicals in the latex. This plant should not be ingested nor should the juice be rubbed on the skin or in the eyes. When ingested all parts of the plant can cause nausea, vomiting or diarrhea. Redness, swelling, blisters after some delay following contact with skin.
- **Cyclamen** (*Cyclamen persicum*) is a houseplant that has a toxic saponin, in the tuberous rhizomes. The rhizome is bitter and found underground, so that children or family pets are unlikely to be exposed to the toxins. There is no information on the amounts of saponins, if any, in cyclamen foliage (Spoerke et al. 1987).
- **Devil's Ivy (Pothos)** (*scindapsus*) All parts of the plant can cause irritation of the mucous membranes, pain and or swelling of the mouth and tongue.
- **Dumbcane** (*dieffenbachia spp.*) The entire plant, especially the stems and leaves can cause severe burning of the mouth and throat if chewed or eaten. Swelling of the throat and tongue may cause choking in severe cases. the leaf produces immediate intense pain followed by swelling of the mouth
- **Elephant's Ear** (*Alocasia sp.*) Any part of the plant may cause painful burning sensation of the lips, mouth, tongue and throat
- **February Daphne** (*daphne mezereum*) An ornamental shrub that is poisonous to humans and animals. Any part of the plant causes painful burning of the skin and mucous membrane.
- **Holly** (*Ilex spp.*) Eating the berries can cause nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Ingestion of a "handful" of berries caused repeated vomiting, green, watery diarrhea, and passage of green semisoft stools. The drowsiness might have been associated with the ipecac-induced vomiting. Ingestion of berries usually results

Pioneer Homes Toxic Plant List

in mild symptoms unless a lot of berries are eaten. Children are more likely to eat the berries (Rodrigues et al. 1984).

- **Hydrangea** (*Hydrangea spp.*) Ingesting the flowers, leaves or buds may cause potentially lethal cyanide poisoning. Some hours may elapse before symptoms appear. Abdominal pain, vomiting, lethargy and sweating may develop.
- **Ivy**: (*Hedera sp.*) is an indoor and outdoor ornamental vine. This plant contains saponins, which have caused poisoning in cattle, dogs, sheep, and humans. Two chemicals in the sap can also cause severe contact dermatitis in sensitive humans. Cases of poisoning are found in older European literature; the plant grows naturally in Europe. Cattle that ingested large quantities of the vines were ill for a few days. Humans who ingested the berries have shown symptoms, including coma. Dermatitis is rare but can be severe. Weeping lesions and blisters respond slowly to treatment (Cooper and Johnson 1984, Massmanian et al. 1980). Family pets should not be allowed to eat English ivy leaves.
 - **Cape** (*tenecio macroglossus*)
 - **German** (*senecio mikanioides*)
- **Jerusalem Cherry** (*solanum pseudocapsicum*) Ingesting any part of the plant, especially the berries can cause gastric irritation, scratchy feeling in the throat, fever and diarrhea.
- **Mistletoe** (*phoradendron flavescens*) Ingesting any part of the plant, especially the berries can cause stomach and intestinal pain, diarrhea and slow pulse. Death may occur within a few hours.
- **Ornamental Pepper** (*capsicum annum*)
- **Poinsettia** (*euphorbia pulcherrima*) When touched the leaves, stems and sap can cause irritant dermatitis. Ingesting can be irritating to the mouth and may cause gastritis and injure the digestive system. Only 1 fatality has been reported.
- **Philodendron**: (*philodendron spp.*) All parts of the plant may cause painful burning and swelling of lips, mouth, tongue, and throat can develop quickly after chewing of leaves. Contact dermatitis can also occur. Treatment includes administering cool liquids. The insoluble oxalates do not produce systemic poisoning in humans (Lampe and McCann 1985).
 - **Black Gold** (*ph. melanochryson*)
 - **Sweetheart Vine** (*ph. scandens*)
 - **Elephant's Ear** (*ph. hastatum*)
 - **Fiddle Leaf** (*ph. panduræ forme*)
 - **Split Leaf** (*ph. monstera*)
- **Sansevieria** ("Snake plant or Mother-in-law tongue") Ingestion of large amounts of any part of the plant may cause nausea, vomiting and other digestive distress.
- **Syngonium** (*syn. podophyllum*) All parts of the plant can cause severe pain in the mouth if eaten. Can be deadly if tongue swells. Skin and eye irritation on contact
 - **Arrowhead**
 - **Green Gold**

Garden Plants

- **Azalea** (*azalea indica*) All parts of the plant may cause salivation, watering of eyes and nose, abdominal pain, loss of energy, depression, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, weakness, difficult breathing, progressive paralysis of arms and legs, coma. Highly toxic, may be fatal if eaten
- **Bleeding Heart** (*dicentra formosa*) All parts of the plant are toxic if eaten in large quantities. May cause trembling, staggering, vomiting, diarrhea, convulsions, labored breathing. Skin irritation is possible after repeated contact with the cell sap.
- **Caladium** (*Caladium bicolor* or *C. hortulanum*) All parts of the plant contain calcium oxalate crystals, causing intense burning and swelling of the mouth and throat if swallowed. Skin and eye irritation on contact is possible as well.
- **Calla Lily** (*zantedeschia aethiopica*) All parts of the plant can cause severe burning sensation and swelling of the lips, tongue, and throat; stomach pain and diarrhea when eaten.
- **Carnation** (*dianthus caryophyllus*) The leaves can cause skin irritation.
- **Castor-Oil plant** (*ricinus communis*) Ingestion of broken seeds can cause nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, bloody diarrhea, depression, trembling, sweating convulsions, coma; may be fatal. Severe allergic reaction in certain people following skin contact with broken seeds.
- **Chinese or Japanese Lantern** (*physalis*) The enclosed immature fruits contain sufficient quantities of solanine to cause gastroenteritis and diarrhea in children. The mature fruits are apparently edible (Lampe and McCann 1985).
- **Chrysanthemum** Dermatitis is caused by irritant oil in leaves. Redness, scaling and blisters may be severe.

Pioneer Homes Toxic Plant List

- **Clematis** All parts of the plant may cause severe burning sensation of the mouth and mouth ulcers; skin redness and burning sensation.
- **Columbine** (*Aquilegia vulgaris*) Ingesting the berries or seedlings can cause digestive upset.
- **Crocus** (*colchicum autumnale*) All parts are highly toxic, may be fatal if eaten. Cramping, vomiting, diarrhea, increased blood pressure or respiratory failure may occur.
- **Cyclamen** (*Cyclamen periscum*) The tuber and possibly other parts are potentially lethal. Symptoms include nausea, vomiting and diarrhea with potential death due to dehydration.
- **Daffodil, joquil, narcissus** (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus*) is an ornamental that is planted outdoors as a spring-flowering perennial. It may be used indoors as a forced flower during the winter. The aboveground parts cause dermatitis in sensitive individuals. The bulbs can also cause dermatitis. Humans have been poisoned after ingesting bulbs thought to be onions, as have cattle when they were fed bulbs instead of feed in times of scarcity. Family pets may be at risk if they ingest daffodils (Mitchell and Rook 1979, Litovitz and Fahey 1982, Cooper and Johnson 1984).
- **Delphineum or Larkspur** (*delphinium spp.*) Highly toxic, may be fatal if eaten. All parts of the plant can cause burning of lips and mouth, numbness of throat; intense vomiting and diarrhea, muscular weakness and spasms, weak pulse, paralysis of the respiratory system, convulsions.
- **Flax** (*Linum spp.*) Eating the seeds can cause dizziness, headache and vomiting with an odor of bitter almonds on the breath of vomit.
- **Foxglove** (*digitalis purpurea*) The entire plant contains toxic compounds. The leaves and seeds are used to produce digoxin and other cardenolides for pharmaceutical use. The chemicals do not lose their toxicity by drying, storage, boiling or incorporation in hay. The plants are unpalatable and are seldom eaten by animals (Cooper and Johnson 1984, Joubert 1989) Highly toxic, may be fatal. Ingestion of leaves, flowers or seeds can cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain, severe headache, irregular and slow pulse, tremors, unusual color visions, convulsions.
- **Hyacinth** (*hyacinthus orientalis*) All parts can cause stomach cramps, salivation, vomiting, and diarrhea if eaten. Dermatitis after contact with cell sap. Possible nasal irritation and asthma in susceptible people.
- **Iris** Eating the rhizomes or rootstocks, fresh or dry can cause nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea or elevated temperature. Skin irritation upon contact with seeds, rootstock or cell sap
- **Lily of the Valley** (*convallaria*) The entire plant is potentially lethal. Ingesting can cause irregular and slow pulse, abdominal pain and diarrhea. Toxic only in large quantities and can cause coma and death from heart failure.
- **Lupine** Eating the leaves, stems, pods or seed can cause salivation, vomiting, nausea, dizziness, headache and abdominal pain. Slow breathing and heartbeat can occur but is rarely fatal.
- **Monkshood** (*Aconitum*) Eating the seeds can cause hallucinations, dilated pupils, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, drowsiness, numbness of extremities and muscle tightness.
- **Morning Glory** (*ipomaea tricolour*) Eating the seeds can cause hallucinations, dilated pupils, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, drowsiness, numbness of extremities and muscle tightness.
- **Oleander** (*nerium oleander*) All parts of the plant may cause nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, dizziness, slowed pulse, irregular heartbeat, dilation of the pupils, bloody diarrhea, drowsiness; may be fatal.
- **Pasque flower** (*Anemone spp.*) Any part of the plant can cause inflammation and blistering of the skin and mucous membranes. Ingestion can cause gastric irritation, vomiting and diarrhea.
- **Periwinkle** (*vinca minor*) Ingesting any part of the plant is potentially lethal. It contains toxic alkaloids and can injure the liver and kidneys.
- **Peony** (root) (*paeonia officinalis*) Eating the rhizomes, seeds or flowers can cause nausea, vomiting, abdominal pains or faintness.
- **Primrose** (*primula*) Contact with leaves or stems may cause allergic skin irritation, mainly on hands and face.
- **Stonecrop** (*sedum acre*) Eating any part of the plant can cause vomiting, stupor, paralysis or respiratory failure.
- **Sweet Pea** (*lathyrus odoratus*) Eating the seeds may cause slow and weak pulse, shallow breathing or convulsions.
- **Sweet William** (*dianthus barbatus*) Leaves may cause skin irritation.
- **Trollius** (*trollius spp*) Ingesting any part of the plant may cause excitement, fatigue, cold sweat, nausea or vomiting.

Unidentified Wild Mushrooms

All should be considered toxic until identified by a mycologist.

Vegetables

Pioneer Homes Toxic Plant List

- **Potato** Eating the green patches found on tubers & everything above ground can cause stomach pain, vomiting diarrhea, lower body temperature, dilated pupils, shock, paralysis, circulatory and respiratory depression. It is potentially lethal. Only the non-green ripe tubers are edible.
- **Rhubarb** (*rheum-x-cultorum*) Eating the leaves can be fatal. Symptoms include burning of the mouth and throat. Hours later causes salivation, watering of the eyes and nose, prickling of skin, diarrhea, vomiting, headaches, low blood pressure, slow pulse, lack of coordination, coma and convulsions.
- **Tomato** Plants and vines are poisonous to livestock in large amounts. Small children have developed severe reactions from making tea from the leaves. Fruit is edible.

Trees & Shrubs

- **European Bird Cherry** (*prunus padus*) This species, most commonly grown in Fairbanks is generally not considered to be toxic by most garden authors.
- **Choke Cherry** (*Prunus virginiana v canada red*) This variety has red leaves and is grown at the Home. It is a native shrub or small tree found through most of Canada. Children have been poisoned and have died after ingesting large quantities of berries, which contain the seeds.
- **Creeping Juniper** (*Juniperus horizontalis*) All parts of this plant can irritate the skin or cause vomiting, loose bloody stool or miscarriage if eaten.