The purpose of this list is to familiarize child care programs with some of the common plants known to have poisonous properties. Generally, these plants and plant components need to be ingested for there to be a poisonous exposure. The term “POISONOUS” does not imply that the plant is fatal. Many of these plants are only mildly toxic, causing stomach ache or mild irritation of the mouth and throat when ingested. This list is NOT intended to discourage child care programs from planting any of the plants on the list, or removing already planted trees and plants, but to make you aware of their potential hazard.

If possible, have all the trees, plants, and shrubs that are on or near the child care property identified by a landscaper, arborist, etc. Keep record of what is growing on the grounds, potentially label or tag the trees and larger shrubs (this could be an educational benefit for the older kids). If any child is seen holding, touching, playing with, or potentially eating any of these plants, trees, or shrubs, call the GPC at 404-616-9000 for further advice as soon as possible. If child care programs have a record of what is growing on the property, this could be of significant benefit when providing treatment advice.

If you have any questions, call Child Care Services at 404-657-5562 or email childcareservices@decal.ga.gov.

Thank you,
Child Care Services
The Facts About Poinsettias

Poinsettias are not the deadly plant they were once thought to be. If eaten, the plant may cause burning in the mouth and may cause a stomach ache.

Plant Safety

To help prevent plant poisonings, follow these safety tips:

- Know the names of all the plants in your home and yard. A nursery, florist, or your county extension agent can help you to identify a plant.
- Label all your plants with their names, so you can tell what it is if a piece has been eaten.
- Keep house plants, seeds, and bulbs out of the reach and sight of children and pets.
- Do not eat wild plants or mushrooms. Cooking poisonous plants does not make them safe to eat.
- Remove mushrooms that are growing in your yard. Throw them away in a covered garbage can.
- Keep weed and bug killers in a locked cabinet, out of the reach of children and pets. Never put them in bottles used for drinking.
- Keep children and pets away from lawns that were just treated with garden chemicals.
- Teach your children to never put any part of a plant into their mouths.

Know What To Do In A Poisoning Emergency

- Keep the telephone number of the Georgia Poison Center on or near your telephones.
- If any part of a plant is eaten, remove as much of the plant as possible from the mouth and call the Georgia Poison Center right away! Do not wait for the victim to look or feel sick.

The Facts About Poinsettias

Each year, the Georgia Poison Center (GPC) provides services to thousands of people in Georgia. You can call the GPC to get help in a poisoning emergency or to get treatment advice about animal or insect bites. Nurses, pharmacists, and doctors answer the phones 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. They can tell you what to do if you, your child, or your pet is poisoned or was bitten by an animal. In addition, the GPC staff can answer questions about poisons in and around your home.

All calls to the GPC are free.

To order educational material, call the Education Department at 404.616.9235 or visit our website at www.georgiapoisoncenter.org.

Georgia Poison Center
Grady Health System
80 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive, SE
PO Box 26066
Atlanta, GA 30303-3050

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Certified as a Regional Poison Center by the American Association of Poison Control Centers

IN A POISONING EMERGENCY, CALL 24-HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK:
1-800-222-1222

Teletype for the deaf and hearing impaired only: TDD 404-616-9287
Both indoor and outdoor plants can be poisonous. Some plants may cause symptoms such as an upset stomach, or skin rash. Some may harm your heart, kidneys, and other organs. Some plants that are thought to be non-poisonous, can cause an upset stomach if they are eaten.

Poisonous Plants

- Amaryllis
- American Ivy/Virginia Creeper
- Anemone
- Apricot (seeds and pits)
- Aralia, Ming
- Azalea/Rhododendron
- Baneberry
- Belladonna/Deadly Nightshade
- Birch Tree
- Bird of Paradise
- Bittersweet/
  Woody Nightshade
- Bleeding Heart/Dicentra
- Boxwood
- Buckeye/Horse Chestnut
- Burning Bush/Euonymus
- Bursting Heart/Euonymus
- Caladium
- Candelabra Cactus
- Cape Gooseberry/
  Chinese Lantern/Winter Cherry
- Castor Oil Plant/Castor Bean
- Cedar Tree
- Cherry, Laurel, Black Chinaberry
- Chinese Lantern/Cape Gooseberry/Winter Cherry
- Choke Cherry
- Chrysanthemum
- Clematis
- Crown of Thorns/Euphoria
- Cyclamen
- Daffodil/Jonquil/Narcissus
- Deadly Nightshade/Belladonna
- Devil’s Ivy/Pathos
- Dicentra/Bleeding Heart
- Dieffenbachia/Dumb Cane
- Elder (bark, shoots, leaves, roots, unripe berries)
- Elephant’s Ear/Philodendron
- English Ivy
- Eucalyptus (dried)
- Euphorbia/Crown of Thorns
- Euonymous
- Flowering Tobacco
- Four O’Clock
- Foxglove
- Gladiola (bulb)
- Holly (berries, leaves)
- Horse Chestnut/Buckeye
- Hyacinth
- Hydrangea
- Iris
- Ivy (Devil’s, American, English)
- Jasmine, Yellow Carolina
- Jequirity/Rosary Pea
- Jerusalem Cherry
- Jimsonweed
- Jonquil/Daffodil/Narcissus
- Juniper (berries)
- Lantana
- Larkspur
- Laurel
- Ligustrum/Wild Privet
- Lily of the Valley
- Mistletoe
- Monkshood
- Morning Glory (seeds)
- Mulberry (leaves, bark, sap)
- Mushrooms
- Narcissus/Daffodil/Jonquil
- Nightshade
- Oak Tree (leaves, acorns)
- Oleander
- Parry (seeds)
- Peace Lily
- Peach (seeds and pits)
- Pencil Cactus
- Peony
- Periwinkle/Vinca
- Philodendron/Elephant’s Ear
- Plum (seeds and pits)
- Poison Hemlock
- Poison Ivy, Oak, Sumac
- Pokeweed/Pokeberry
- Poppy
- Potato (leaves, all green parts)
- Pathas/Devil’s Ivy
- Rhododendron/Azalea
- Rosary Pea/Jequirity
- Split Leaf/Philodendron
- Sweet Pea (seeds)
- Sweet William
- Tomato (stems, leaves)
- Vinca/Periwinkle
- Virginia Creeper/American Ivy
- Water Hemlock
- Wild Privet/Ligustrum
- Winter Cherry/Cape Gooseberry/Chinese Lantern
- Wisteria
- Woody Nightshade/Bittersweet
- Yarrow
- Yew

Poison Ivy, Poison Oak, And Poison Sumac

The sap from poison ivy, oak, and sumac plants can cause a rash, burning, and itching if touched. If you come into contact with the sap, a skin rash may appear within a few hours to two days. The rash may take one to two weeks to go away. In some people, the sap can cause an allergic reaction.

If you touch poison ivy, oak, or sumac...
- Wash the area with warm, soapy water right away.
- Wash any clothing and garden tools you think may have sap on it.
- Try not to scratch your rash since this can cause it to get worse.

You can only get the rash from touching the sap; you cannot get the rash from touching another person’s rash.

To avoid touching these plants, keep covered up while outdoors! Wear long pants, long sleeves and gloves when working in your yard. Stay on trails while hiking or camping in the woods!

Poison Ivy has shiny green leaves that grow in groups of three. Poison ivy may grow as a vine or as a low shrub.

Poison Oak also has leaves grouped in three. It grows as a low shrub, which may have clusters of green or white berries.

Poison Sumac has 7-13 leaves found in pairs with a single leaf at the end. These long, smooth leaves are bright orange and velvet-like in the spring. They become dark green and glossy on top and light green underneath. Sumac grows as a tree in swampy areas.

Do not burn Poison Ivy, Poison Oak or Poison Sumac. The smoke can cause breathing problems.