

Poisonous Plants



This is a listing of some potentially poisonous plants common to Interior contracts. This is not a complete list and should not be a guide to say a plant not listed is not potentially harmful.

Taken from: Common Poisonous Plants and Mushrooms of North America. By: Nancy J. Turner and Adam F. Szczawinski.

Castor Bean, (<i>Ricinus communis</i>)	Seeds violently poisonous, sometimes fatal, especially for children; symptoms may be delayed for hours or days after ingestion. Castor oil strongly cathartic.
Croton, (<i>Codiaeum variegatum</i> and sp.)	Leaves and stems of many contain a highly toxic, irritant, and purgative oil; keep young children away from the brightly colored leaves.
Crown of Thorns, (<i>Euphorbia milii</i>)	Milky sap from leaves and stems is an irritant of the skin and digestive tract; spines may cause painful injury. Severe human poisoning is rare because the plant is so spiny.
Common Fig (<i>Ficus carica</i>)	Stems and leaves exude a milky juice when cut or bruised; fruits and leaves can cause skin irritation, but severity varies with species.
Alocasia (<i>Alocasia</i> sp.)	Entire plant contains irritant calcium oxalate crystals, causing intense burning of the mouth and throat if swallowed; not usually fatal.
Aloes (<i>Aloe</i> spp.)	The juice is strongly purgative if ingested, but not fatal.
Anthurium (<i>anthurium andreanum</i> and <i>A. scherzerianum</i>)	Entire plant contains calcium oxalate crystals which irritate the mouth and throat if swallowed; may also irritate skin and eyes.
Caladium (<i>Caladium bicolor</i> and <i>C. hortulanum</i>)	Entire plant contains irritant calcium oxalate crystals, causing intense burning of the mouth and throat if swallowed; not usually fatal.
Ornamental Peppers (<i>Capsicum annuum</i>)	When mature, fruit contain varying amounts of an irritant principle that can cause painful inflammation and burning of the mouth, mucus membranes, skin and eyes.
Dieffenbachia (<i>Dieffenbachia</i> spp.)	Entire plant contains irritating calcium oxalate crystals, painful to the mouth and throat if eaten, but seldom fatal.
Elephant's Ears (<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>)	Entire plant contains irritating calcium oxalate crystals, painful to the mouth and throat if eaten, but seldom fatal.
Jerusalem Cherry (<i>Solanum pseudocapsicum</i>)	Entire plant, and especially the fruits, toxic and potentially fatal.
Nutmeg	Greater than 10 g, if ingested can cause acute poisoning and death.
Philodendrons (<i>Philodendron</i> spp.)	Entire plant contains irritating calcium oxalate crystals, painful to the mouth and throat if eaten, but seldom fatal.
Poinsettia (<i>Euphorbia pulcherrima</i>)	Entire plant exudes a milky juice when cut or bruised. Ingesting the plant may produce stomach upset; milky juice may irritate the skin.

In all cases of suspected poisoning by plants, seek medical advice or assistance.