

Gardeners Beware

Prevent Plant Poisonings



Gardeners and homeowners should use caution when choosing plants during the spring planting season. Many plants, trees and shrubs can be harmful, causing skin rash or irritation.

Other plants can cause vomiting or diarrhea, if eaten. Even a small amount of some plants may cause more serious problems of the heart, kidneys or other organs, and possibly even death.

Plants that can be toxic include Lily-of-the-Valley, azalea, rhododendron, amaryllis, morning glory and buckeye.

(Please note: This is not a complete list.)



Safety Tips

- Keep all house plants out of children's reach.
- Teach children never to put mushrooms, berries or any part of a plant into their mouths.
- Label all the plants in and around the house with their common and botanical names. Check with a local greenhouse or florist to identify unknown plants.
- Read the IPC's toxic plant list to find out which plants may be toxic and label them appropriately.

For a copy of the IPC's Toxic Plant List, call 1-800-222-1222, or visit www.IllinoisPoisonCenter.org.

First Aid for Poisoning

Poison in the Mouth:

- Call the poison center, whether the poison was swallowed or not.
- Do not make the person vomit**, or give the victim something to eat or drink unless the poison center tells you to.



Poison on the Skin:

- Take off clothes that have poison on them.
- Rinse the skin very well with water. Then wash the skin with soap and water.



Poison in the Eye:

- Remove contact lenses (if worn).
- Rinse the eyes with water for 15 minutes.
- Open and close the eyes while rinsing.



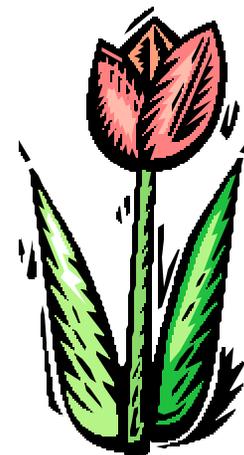
Poison in the Air:

- Open windows and doors to let in fresh air.
- Leave the area and move to a place where you can breathe fresh air.
- Help others leave the area, but be careful not to breathe the poison yourself.



Call the Illinois Poison Center as soon as possible at 1-800-222-1222. You may be told to call your doctor, hospital or 911.

Spring Poison Prevention Safety Tips



www.IllinoisPoisonCenter.org

1-800-222-1222



Treat Allergies Safely

Avoid Medication Misuse



Many people suffer from seasonal allergies. During spring, when pollen and mold begin to fill the air and cause allergic reactions, people use medicines to help control allergies more often. These products, called antihistamines, may result in potentially harmful effects if misused.

Common side effects associated with antihistamines include:

- Dizziness
- Drowsiness
- Dry mouth
- Dilated pupils
- A racing heart

An overdose may cause seizures, heart beat irregularities, and hallucinations.

Safety Tips

- Read the label every time, and follow the directions.
- Always use the measuring device that comes with the medicine.
- Do not take or give medicine in the dark, or when sleepy.
- Never take someone else's prescribed medication.
- Speak with your physician for more information about seasonal allergies.



Use Care When Spring Cleaning



Spend a few minutes to safeguard against potential poisoning hazards in your home.

Cleaning Products

Products such as bleaches, disinfectants, floor and tile cleaners, automatic dishwasher detergent and glass cleaners can be toxic.

Safety Tips

- Store cleaning products up high and out of children's reach.
- Keep all cleaning products in their original containers with original labels.
- Always read the product label first and use the product according to the directions.
- Never leave a cleaning product open and unattended.



Mixing Chemicals

Mixing certain cleaning chemicals can create toxic gases. Breathing in these gases can cause coughing, burning of the eyes, nose and throat, and difficulty breathing.

Safety Tips

- Do not mix cleaning products.
- Work in well-ventilated areas when using cleaning products.

Product Disposal

Emptying household chemicals into drains or throwing them out with the regular trash can pollute the environment. To learn how to dispose of these products safely, visit the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Web site at www.epa.state.il.us.



Safety Tip

- Dispose of cleaning products according to the instructions on the label.

Lawn Care and Pesticide Safety

Fertilizers can irritate the skin and stomach. After using fertilizer, make sure everyone stays off the lawn/grass for two days or until it rains.

Pesticides also are dangerous poisoning hazards, and are likely to be more toxic than lawn fertilizers.



Safety Tips

- Wear protective clothing (gloves, glasses, long sleeves, and pants).
- Do not apply on a windy day.
- Keep children and pets away during application and until the product dries, or as directed on the label.
- Always store lawn chemicals in the original containers, complete with labels that list ingredients, directions for use and first-aid steps in case of an accidental poisoning.