

COMMON POISON

PLANTS

OF

FLORIDA



<u>Plant Group</u> <u>(by poison type)</u>	<u>Plant Common Name</u>	<u>Photo</u>	NOTES: If you encounter these plants in the field, please perform a rough site sketch.
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Oxalate

Arrowhead, Dieffenbachia
Caladium, Philodendron,
Peace Lily, Pothos



Cardiac
Glycoside

Oleander, Lily of the Valley,
Foxglove



Toxalbumin,
Ricin

Castor Beans, Rosary Pea



Colchicine

Glory Lily, Autumn crocus



Triterpenoid

Common Lantana,
Chinaberry



Gastro-Intestinal

Poinsettia, Croton,
American Holly



<u>Plant Group</u> <u>(By Poison Type)</u>	<u>Plant Common Name</u>	<u>Photo</u>	<u>Description and Symptoms</u>
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Anti-cholinergic

Angel's Trumpet



These are mostly outdoor ornamental plants. When flowers, leaves or seeds are eaten or ingested as a brewed tea, symptoms include hallucinations, dry mouth, muscle weakness, increased blood pressure and pulse and dilated pupils, paralysis.

Skin Irritant

Poison Ivy, Brazilian Pepper



These are outdoor wild plants. Poison Ivy, especially causes acute symptoms in some people, including severe skin redness, itching, swelling, and blisters following direct or indirect contact. These plants are poisonous if swallowed or smoke from burning plant is inhaled.

Toxic

Mistletoe



These are parasitic plants which grow in the bark of hardwood trees. It's an aerial parasite that has no roots or it's own & lives off the tree it attaches itself to. All plant parts are extremely poisonous when eaten .

Gastrointestinal
& Toxic

Eucalyptus



These are small to large trees with distinctive patterned bark, and generally strap-like leaves. The leaves can cause gastrointestinal problems and death when eaten.

Toxic

Honey suckle



This is an arching shrub with woody twining vines with small , trumpet-shaped flowers. They are usually white or yellow in color with a sweet fragrance . The leaves are simple & oval shaped about 1-10 cm long. The leaves and berries of these plants have been reported to be highly toxic when eaten.

Skin Irritant

Poison Sumac



Spring



Fall

The Poison Sumac Is a water loving swamp tree found in the east from Quebec to Florida and westward along the coast to far east Texas. It has pinnately compound leaves with from 5 to 13 smooth leaflets per stalk. It is often mistaken for the smooth Sumac or the Stag Horn Sumac. It has tiny sweet smelling flowers in the spring and is brightly covered with red & yellow leaves in the fall. Only Poison Sumac has cream colored berries.

Description and Symptoms

These plants are mostly outdoor ornamental plants. They contain oxalate crystals in their stems & leaves. Needlelike crystals cause immediate pain, burning and irritation in the lips, mouth and throat. Can cause slurred speech.

These are mostly outdoor ornamental plants. All parts, especially oleander, are poisonous. Some skin irritation is possible through contact, most poisonings occur by eating or chewing the plant, or by breathing in smoke from burning plants. Symptoms include nausea, vomiting, stomach cramps, dizziness, low blood pressure, slow heart rate and seizures.

These are mostly outdoor ornamental plants. Ingestion can cause severe symptoms including vomiting, diarrhea, burning/corroding the esophagus, shock, multi-organ failure (liver, kidneys, respiratory failure).

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These are mostly outdoor ornamental plants. All parts can be poisonous and cause skin irritation. However, the berries are most poisonous and, if eaten, symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, stomach cramps, fever, seizures and shallow or difficult breathing.

These are mostly outdoor ornamental plants. All parts can cause skin irritations and/or rash from milky inside. If eaten in quantity, symptoms include nausea and/or diarrhea.

FIRST AID STEPS

1. Immediately try to determine what was eaten.
2. Call Poison Control, family doctor, or local hospital emergency room, or 911.
3. Follow all instructions given.
4. If doctor or hospital needs more help determining cause of poisoning, bring in plant or plant parts. Know the name of the plant if possible.

The sap or juice of certain plants will cause skin eruptions on some persons. The most common plants are poison ivy, poison oak, and poison sumac. Skin eruptions from these plants can be prevented by learning how to identify the plants and by taking the proper control measures (FM 21-10), Should you develop a skin eruption several days after possible exposure to any of these plants, avoid scratching it and seek medical aid. The skin eruption first appears as redness and swelling accompanied by severe burning and itching; blisters appear later.

Information Numbers:

National Poison Control Center 1-800-332-3073
Medical Assistant – CBJTC- 904-682-3514
Camp Blanding Non-Duty hours – 904-682-3528
Range Control – 904-682-3351
Camp Blanding Fire Station #25 – 904-682-3462