



Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

## GUIDELINES FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF POISONOUS PLANTS IN CHILD CARE CENTERS

These general guidelines for applying the *Rules and Regulations Governing the Sanitation of Child Care Centers in the State of Colorado* are provided by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Consumer Protection Division. Additional information about the rules and regulations may be obtained by calling 303-692-3620, or visiting the division's web page – [www.cdphe.state.co.us/cp/](http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/cp/)

### Flowers

caladium (all parts)  
castor bean (seeds and leaves)  
flowering tobacco (leaves and flowers)  
foxglove (all parts)  
iris (all parts)  
larkspur (delphinium)  
lupine (all parts)  
poppy (all parts)  
spurge (milky sap)  
sweet pea (seeds and pods)



cardinal flower (all parts)  
daffodil (all parts)  
four-o'clock (roots and seeds)  
hellebore (all parts)  
lantana (unripe fruits and leaves)  
lily of the valley (all parts)  
monkshood (all parts)  
snowdrop (bulb)  
star-of-Bethlehem (all parts)  
tulip (bulbs)

### Houseplants

Chinese Evergreen  
aloe (sap if ingested)  
croton (seeds, leaves, and stems)  
dieffenbachia (all parts)  
Jerusalem Cherry (all parts)  
Philodendron (all parts)

anthurium (all parts)  
calla lily (all parts)  
crown-of-thorns (milky sap)  
elephant ear (all parts)  
mistletoe (all parts)



### Fruits

apple (bark, leaves, seeds)  
apricot (bark, leaves, seeds, pits)  
nectarine (bark, leaves, seeds, pits)  
cherry (bark, leaves, seeds, pits)

pear (bark, leaves, seeds)  
peach (bark, leaves, seeds, pits)  
plum (bark, leaves, seeds, pits)  
avocado (leaves, unripe fruit, bark, seeds)

### Landscape Plants

azalea (leaves and flowers)  
Boston ivy (berries)  
buckeye (all parts)  
clematis (leaves)  
English ivy (all parts)  
horse chestnut (all parts)  
oak (acorns, leaves)  
rhododendron (leaves and flowers)



black locust (all parts)  
boxwood (leaves and twigs)  
burning bush (all parts)  
elderberry (all parts)  
holly (berries, leaves)  
hydrangea (leaves and buds)  
privet (all parts)  
wisteria (all parts)

Different parts of plants are poisonous. Keep all plants away from small children. Before treating a child who has eaten a plant call Rocky Mountain Poison Control. Denver Metro: 303-739-1123 Outside Metro Denver: 800-332-3073

This is a limited list of specific plants that have been classified as poisonous. The exclusion of a plant from this list does not mean it would be accepted within a child care facility if there were a potential hazard to the children or staff.

Cornell University has a website titled "Poisonous Plant Informational Database" that provides useful information on poisonous plant <http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/plants/index.html>