

### **Other Common Poisonous Plants:**

(The following is a list of other common poisonous plants. Do not assume a plant is not poisonous just because it is not listed.)

- ✧ African Milk Bush
- ✧ Akee Fruit
- ✧ Allamanda
- ✧ Anthurium
- ✧ Azalea
- ✧ Be-Still Tree
- ✧ Black-eyed Susan
- ✧ Candelabra Cactus
- ✧ Cassava
- ✧ Castor Bean
- ✧ Cerbera
- ✧ Cestrum
- ✧ Chinaberry
- ✧ Christmas Berry Tree
- ✧ Coral berry
- ✧ Cup of Gold
- ✧ Foxglove
- ✧ Gloriosa Lily
- ✧ Hydrangea
- ✧ Jimson Weed
- ✧ Lantana
- ✧ Nightshade
- ✧ Periwinkle
- ✧ Physic nut, kukui haole
- ✧ Red Spurge
- ✧ Star-of-Bethlehem
- ✧ Wood Rose, Hawaiian Baby
- ✧ Wild Mushrooms (fungus) - *Mushrooms require expert identification, and may cause death.*

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## **Top Ten Inquiries About Plants Received by the Hawaii Poison Hotline**



\*Crown flower (*Calotropis gigantea*)

### **Educate Yourself**

**Hawaii Poison Hotline  
1(800) 222-1222**



Pesticides Branch  
Office: (808) 973-9401  
Fax: (808) 973-9418  
Website: <http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/pi/pest/>  
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### **POISONOUS PLANTS ARE**

#### **ALL AROUND US**

Whether we go to the park, to the beach, hiking, camping, or even if we stay at a hotel, we are potentially exposed to poisonous plants. These toxic plants are often used in landscaping and as ornamental plants. Educating ourselves about the types of plants and other pests that could harm us is important not only for our health and well-being, but for our children's as well.

Plants rank as the 4th most common type of poisoning exposure following those involving medications, household cleaning products, and health and beauty aids.

Poisonous plants come in all different sizes, colors, and textures. Some poisonous plants have berries that look good enough to eat. Children are attracted to plants because of their colorful leaves and berries and fragrant flowers.

#### **Basic Rules to Follow:**

- ◆ **Never eat or taste any strange fruit, seed, leaf, flower, or root.**
- ◆ **Be cautious of contact with any plant you do not know, particularly those with :**
  - \* **White or milky juice or sap;**
  - \* **Rough hairy leaves;**
  - \* **Spiny fruit or seed pods;**
  - \* **Unusual shape;**
  - \* **Low-maintenance plants whose poisons make them resistant to insects.**

#### **References:**

Scott, Susan and Thomas, Craig, Poisonous Plants of Paradise, University of Hawaii Press, 2000.  
[www.desert-tropicals.com](http://www.desert-tropicals.com)  
[www.ces.ncsu.edu](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu)  
[www.safetyrules.health.wa.gov.au](http://www.safetyrules.health.wa.gov.au)  
[www.caf.wvu.edu](http://www.caf.wvu.edu)  
[www.kingherb.com](http://www.kingherb.com)  
[www.hear.org/maps/plants/hawaii](http://www.hear.org/maps/plants/hawaii)  
Dr. Alvin Bronstein, Medical Director of Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center  
Kapiolani Poison Prevention Program

### **POISON PREVENTION TIPS**

- \* Keep all plants out of reach of young children. Even plants that are not poisonous can be harmful:
  - ⇒ *They may have been sprayed with pesticides; or*
  - ⇒ *Children may choke on the berries, leaves, and other parts of the plant; or*
  - ⇒ *Children may be injured from sharp leaves or thorns.*
- \* Store your seeds, bulbs, and plant food out of sight and out of reach of children.
- \* Learn both botanical and common names of the plants in your home and yard. Keep a list. Put the name of each plant on the bottom of the planter. Find out which ones are poisonous. You can do so by taking a piece of the plant to your local botanical garden.

### **SAFE PLANTING TIPS**

- \* When you plant your garden and buy your indoor plants, make sure you place potentially poisonous or dangerous plants in areas that are out of reach of children. Even if non-poisonous, young children can choke on the berries, stems, and leaves, or may be injured from the sharp thorns or leaves.
- \* Make sure you know the plants you are putting in your garden. Are they toxic or non-toxic? The leaves from 3 very common vegetables can be harmful...tomatoes, potatoes, and rhubarb.
- \* Do not leave out packs of seeds. Some are poisonous and others may be coated with pesticides.
- \* Keep all fertilizers and pesticides in their original containers and out of reach of children, and follow all directions provided on the label.
- \* When you spray any pesticides on your plants, remember to wash your hands and to protect children and pets. There is a chemical residue left when you spray.
- \* When you spray your yard or any plant, do so on calm days and always spray downwind away from yourself, pets, and other homes. Be considerate of your neighbors.
- \* If you spray your lawn, do not let anyone walk across it until it is dry.
- \* Be careful not to spray children's toys, play gyms, sandboxes, bikes, or pet food dishes.

# Top Ten Inquiries About Plants Received by the Hawaii Poison Hotline



**1** **Common Name:** Plumeria; pua melia; frangipani  
**Scientific Name:** *Plumeria* sp.  
**Description:** Small tree; leaves glossy, ovate (pointed or rounded); flowers tubular, 5-lobed, white, red, yellow, pink, or combination.  
**Mode:** All parts - ingestion; dermatitis  
**Symptoms:** When eaten in large amounts, may result in vomiting and diarrhea. Milky sap may produce rash and blistering on skin contact. Frequently eaten by children because of its sweet fragrance.

**6** **Common Name:** Candlenut tree; kukui  
**Scientific Name:** *Aleurites moluccana*  
**Description:** Tree; leaves simple, ovate or tri-lobed; flowers small, greenish-white, in clusters; fruit round, hard, apple-shaped, brown w/ black hard seed.  
**Mode:** Ingestion; dermatitis  
**Symptoms:** All parts are poisonous, but raw seeds usually culprit causing mild to severe vomiting, abdominal cramping, and diarrhea. Watery sap on skin may cause red, itchy rash.



**2** **Common Name:** Taro; kalo; coco yam **\*EDIBLE\***  
**Scientific Name:** *Colocasia esculenta*  
**Description:** Herb; leaves arrowhead-shaped, long stems leading to corm; corm shaped like a top w/ small spindly roots; commonly eaten when prepared properly.  
**Mode:** All parts - ingestion; dermatitis  
**Symptoms:** When any part of this plant is eaten raw or undercooked, immediate stomach pain followed by swelling of lips, mouth, tongue, and throat. Excessive salivation & blisters may occur. Contact with taro sap/juice may cause skin redness, itching, and burning.

**7** **Common Name:** Mango **\*EDIBLE\***  
**Scientific Name:** *Mangifera indica*; related to poison ivy.  
**Description:** Tall tree; leaves droop, lance-shaped, red then green; flowers small, numerous, ivory; fruit irregular egg-shaped, greenish-yellow, red tinge, one seed.  
**Mode:** Dermatitis  
**Symptoms:** Severity of symptoms depends on individual and amount of contact. Skin contact results in simple rash to blistering that can produce generalized swelling over entire body. Effects may be delayed. Itching and burning of lips may occur after eating unpeeled mango.



**3** **Common Name:** Oleander  
**Scientific Name:** *Nerium oleander*  
**Description:** Shrub or small tree; clear gummy sap; leaves long, thin, and leathery; flowers 5-parted, funnel-shaped, white, pink, red, or yellow.  
**Mode:** All parts - ingestion  
**Symptoms:** Mere lick or taste may produce nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, and cramping. This plant can cause irregular or slowed pulse resulting in generalized heart symptoms as well as dizziness, headache, confusion, and drowsiness.

**8** **Common Name:** Pencil plant  
**Scientific Name:** *Euphorbia tirucalli*  
**Description:** Cactus-like tree; no spines; leaves small; flowers in yellow head; milky sap; branches often tangled, pencil-thick, succulent.  
**Mode:** Dermatitis; ingestion  
**Symptoms:** All parts contain corrosive milky sap. Skin contact can produce severe burns and blisters. Eye contact causes intense pain, redness, and swelling. Eating any part may result in severe stomach pain, vomiting, and diarrhea.



**4** **Common Name:** Poinsettia  
**Scientific Name:** *Euphorbia pulcherrima*  
**Description:** Shrub; leaves large, dark green, pointed, w/ red bracts (petal-like leaves); flowers small, yellow-green at top  
**Mode:** Dermatitis; ingestion  
**Symptoms:** Skin contact may cause mild redness and irritation. Some individuals may develop swelling and blisters. Eating large amounts may result in nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.

**9** **Common Name:** Angel's Trumpet; nanahonua  
**Scientific Name:** *Datura candida*  
**Description:** tree-like; leaves large w/ tiny hairs; flowers dramatic, trumpet-shaped, orange or white.  
**Mode:** All parts - ingestion  
**Symptoms:** Initially, blurred vision and sensitivity to bright light, dry mouth, restlessness, disorientation, and hallucinations. Severe exposures may result in seizures, paralysis, coma, respiratory failure, and death.



**5** **Common Name:** Crown flower  
**Scientific Name:** *Calotropis gigantea*  
**Description:** Evergreen shrub; leaves pale, oval w/ fuzzy texture; flowers purple or white and form small crown; usually no fruit.  
**Mode:** Ingestion  
**Symptoms:** Milky juice may irritate or burn skin; eye contact result in intense tearing & eyelid swelling. Ingestion may cause nausea, vomiting, stomach pain & cramping; irregular or slowed pulse resulting in generalized heart symptoms as well as dizziness, headache, confusion, etc.

**10** **Common Name:** Dumbcane  
**Scientific Name:** *Dieffenbachia* sp.  
**Description:** Erect herb; leaves large, oblong, variegated.  
**Mode:** Dermatitis; ingestion  
**Symptoms:** Biting and chewing leaf or stem may result in rapid development of mild to severe pain around the mouth followed by swelling of lips, mouth, tongue, and throat and excessive salivation. Skin exposure can produce a burning sensation, redness, and itching.

