

PLANTS IN THE CLASSROOM

PURPOSE: To explore the world of plants through observation and care while maintaining the safety and health of all children

PROCEDURES:

1. All plants/seeds/beans in the classroom will be labeled. Label will include plant's common name i.e. Spider Plant. A list of plants that are harmful and/or poisonous will be maintained. Plants are among the most common household substances ingested by children. It is difficult to determine every commercially available household plant's toxicity. A more reasonable approach is to keep plants out of young children's reach and teach them at an early age not to nibble on any plant, lawn mushroom or berry not commonly used as food. Carnivorous plants will not be allowed. i.e. Venus Fly Traps.
2. All staff must be aware of children's allergies and fears. If a child has an allergy to a plant, that plant will not be allowed in the classroom setting. If a child has a fear, appropriate measures will be taken to help the child deal with the fear.
3. Plants, shrubs, and trees in the outdoor learning environment will be maintained in a safe manner. Plants that are harmful (thorns, sharp branches) and/or poisonous will not be included.

Below are lists of Non-Toxic Plants, Mildly Toxic Plants, and Toxic Plants. These lists are not intended to be exhaustive by any means. If you are unsure of any plant, please follow up with your Child and Family Services Manager and your Operations Director.

Remember, any plant may cause unexpected problems. This includes choking. Always check with the poison control center if a plant has been accidentally ingested.

NON-TOXIC PLANT LIST

The following plants are considered to be "good" or nonpoisonous. Symptoms from eating or handling small amounts of these plants are unlikely to occur. However, some individuals may be more sensitive or react differently to any of these plants.

Abelia	Dionaea muscipula (Venus flytrap)	Parlor palm
African daisy	Dracaena	Patient Lucy
African violet	Easter lily	Peperomia
Air fern	Elm tree	Petunia
Aluminum plant	Eugenia	Phlox
Asparagus fern	False aralia	Piggyback plant
Aster	Fittonia, red	Polka dot plant
Baby's breath	Forsythia	Prayer plant
Baby tears	Friendship plant	Pregnant plant
Bachelor button	Fuchsia	Purple passion
Bamboo	Gardenia	Rose
Begonia (except sand begonia)	Gloxinia	Schefflera
Bleeding heart vine	Goldfish plant	Snapdragon
Bloodleaf plant	Grape ivy	Snake plant
Boston fern	Hawthorne	Snowball bush
Bromeliad	Hens and Chicks	Spider plant
Bougainvillea	Hibiscus	Spider aralia
Butterfly tulip	Impatiens	Staghorn fern
Cactus, Christmas	Jade plant	Swedish ivy
Camellia	Japanese aralia	Swordfern
Chinese evergreen	Kalanchoe	Tiger lily
Coleus	Lipstick plant	Umbrella tree
Columbine	Maidenhair fern	Velvet plant
Corn plant	Magnolia bush	Wandering Jew
Croton (Codiaeum)	Marigold	Wild onion
Creeping Charlie (house plant)	Mountain ash	Yucca
Dahlia	Nasturtium	Zebra plant
Dandelion		Zinni, creeping

MILDLY TOXIC PLANTS

The following plants are considered to be "bad" or mildly toxic plants. Mildly toxic plants may be easily confused with toxic plants. They can be kept around children with some careful supervision.

- Should only be in Head Start Classrooms (NO EHS Classrooms)
- These plants must be kept out of the reach of children. Because parts of these plants have a level of toxicity, though not fatal, supervision should be guaranteed when children have access to the plants to ensure that no parts of the plants are ingested
- Notify your supervisor of your inclusion of any of these plants into your learning environment and discuss/problem-solve any potential logistical or supervision issues.
- Please take into account the children in your classroom and ensure that the inclusion of these plants is developmentally appropriate.

Aloe Vera
Alyssum
American ivy
Apricot (pit)
Arrowhead
Avocado (seed, leaves, stem)
Balsam Pear
Birch tree
Black walnut
Bleeding heart
Boston ivy
Boxwood
Cactus
Carnation
Carrot (greens)
Cattail
Chalice Vine
Chrysanthemum
Coral Plant
Dahlia
Daisy

Devil's Ivy
Dieffenbachia
Dogwood
Dracaena (most varieties)
Eggplant (except fruit)
Elephant's ear
Eucalyptus
Fern
Ficus Benjamina
Fig tree
Geranium
Gladiola
Honeysuckle
Inch plant
Iris
Ivy
Lady slipper
Lamb's tail
Maple tree
Narcissus (Daffodils)
Oak tree

Oxalis
Painted lady
Pansy
Peace lily
Peach (pit)
Philodendron
Poinsettia
Potato (all green parts)
Pothos
Rose
Rubber plant
Sedum
Sensitive fern
Snake plant
Sweet pea
Tomato (entire plant except the ripe fruit)
Violet
Weeping Willow
Woodbine

TOXIC PLANTS

The following plants are considered to be "very bad," poisonous, or toxic plants. If any portion of the following plants is ingested, call the Oregon Poison Center. THESE PLANTS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE CLASSROOM OR OUTDOOR AREA. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Amaryllis	Foxglove (Digitalis purpurea)	Monkshood
Anemone	Glory Lily	Morning Glory
Arborvitae	Groundcherry	Mushrooms (several varieties)
Autumn Crocus	Heather	Myoporum
Azalea Rhododendrum	Heliotrope	Nightshade (all varieties)
Belladonna	Hellebore	Oleander
Bird of paradise	Hedge apples	Pampas Grass
Bittersweet	Holly	Peony
Black henbane	Honey bush	Periwinkle
Black locust (seeds)	Hyacinth	Pittosporum
Black root	Hydrangea	Poison hemlock
Buckeye	Jack in the pulpit	Poison oak
Buttercups	Jerusalem cherry	Pokewood
Caladium	Jessamine	Poppy (except California)
Castor bean	Jimson weed (Datura Stramonium)	Ranunculus
Cestrum	Jonquil	Rosary beans
China Berry	Juniper	Rosary peas
Chinese Lantern	Laurel (English)	Sand begonia
Choke Cherry	Lily of the valley	Snow on the mountain
Coral Tree	Lobelia	Solomon's seal
Crown of thorns	Loco weed	String of beads
Crown vetch	Lupine	String of pearls
Cyclamen	Maiden hair tree	Sumac
Daphne	May Apple	Toyon
Delphinium (Larkspur)	Mistletoe	Tulip
Dumb Cane	Moonseed	Vinca (all varieties)
Elderberry		Water hemlock
		Wild parsnip
		Wisteria
		Yew

Adapted from:
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