

Plants in the Classroom

Policy/Procedure

Poisonous plants are not allowed in areas where children may spend time during their Head Start day.

Policy/Procedure:

- Any plant at a Head Start site must have the name of the plant clearly labeled on the container. No plants known to be poisonous (see list below) are acceptable for placement at any sites.
- If staff do not know if a plant is toxic, they should consult with either a local greenhouse or the University of MN Extension Service.
- Poisonous plants found at outdoor areas that are used, but not owned, by Head Start will be made inaccessible to the children and families.
- Head Start staff will integrate poison prevention into the curriculum, letting children know that plants can be poisonous and never eat any part of a plant, including berries or seeds, unless told it is okay by a trusted adult.
- If someone is exposed to a poisonous plant or if a child is suspected of ingesting any type of plant, staff will immediately call Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222 and follow instructions given by their trained staff.

Toxic Plantsⁱ

Alder buckthorn	Christmas Rose	Hemlock	Milkweed	Poppies
Amaryllis	Clematis	Hogwort	Mistletoe	Primrose
Anemone	Crocus (autumn)	Holly	Moonseed	Ranunculus
Angels' Trumpet	Croton	Hyacinth	Monkshood	Rhododendron
Arborvitae	Crown of Thorns	Hydrangea	Morning Glory	Rosary Beans
Azalea	Crown Vetch	Jack-in-the- Pulpit	Mountain Laurel	Rosary Peas
Baneberry	Cyclamen	Japenese Yew	Mushrooms	Snow-on-the Mountain (annual)

Barberry	Daphne	Jequirity Bean	Nightshade	Solomon's Seal
Bird of Paradise	Delphinium	Jerusalem Cherry	Oleander	Star-of-Bethlehem
Bittersweet	Elderberry	Jimson Weed	Paradise Plant	String of Beads
Black Locust	Euonymus	Lantana	Parsnip	Toadstools
Buckeye	Fluffy Ruffles	Larkspur	Peony	Tobacco
Buckthorn	Four O'Clock	Lily of the Valley	Periwinkle	Trumpet Plan
Buttercups	Fox Glove	Lobelia	Peyote	Vinca
Calico Bush	Gingko	Loco Weed	Poison Ivy	Water Hemlock
Castor Bean	Hawaiin Baby Wood Rose	Marijuana	Poison Oak	Wild Parsnip
Chinese Lantern	Hedge Apples	Marsh Marigold	Poison Sumac	Wisteria
		May Apple	Pokeweed	Yew

This policy complies with Head Start Performance Standard 45CFR Section 1304.22.
Approved by Policy Council on 3-22-2005.
Updated on 9-9-2015.

¹ Source: Minnesota Poison Control System Plant Guide, 2012.