



# Homegrown Horticulture

TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

## Poisonous Plants

There are many attractive and useful plants that we can enjoy, both outdoors and indoors. When my kids were little, we would constantly have to tell them to look with their eyes, not their hands. For sure, depending on the plant and the particular person/animal, some plants are meant to be looked at, not touched, or should be avoided entirely. Some are flowers, some are trees or shrubs, some are weeds, and some are decorations.

It would be unwise to try and provide a comprehensive list of poisonous plants, their poisonous parts/pieces, and how they affect people/pets. This is especially true since there are varying sensitivities to different plants. Below are some of the common plants that you have a reasonable chance of running up against in the Canadian prairies.

For a detailed list provided by a federal agency, consult the [Canadian Poisonous Plants Information System](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/food-nutrition/food-safety/poisonous-plants.html).

If you have pets and/or small children, it would be wise to look at each of the plants that you have in the spaces where they might play or spend time and determine their potential affect if they were chewed on, consumed, or touched. It is probably best to be cautious and keep indoor plants up off the ground (as much as possible), and carefully supervise kids/pets when around plants (at least until they learn what can be touched and what can't.

Some plants will cause illness, while others can be extremely fatal. Be careful.

Some other resources: <https://www.poison.org/articles/plant%20>; <https://www.aspca.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants>

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### Trees/Shrubs (outdoors)

Euonymus  
Tatarian honeysuckle  
European / American Elder  
Virginia Creeper  
Ohio Buckeye  
Common Hops

### Other Plants / Parts

American Mistletoe **db c**  
Castor Bean (seeds) **db**  
American Holly  
English Holly  
Marijuana / Cannabis **db**

### Ornamentals (outdoors) – Annuals / Perennials

Foxglove **db c**  
Daffodil / Narcissus **db c**  
Chrysanthemum  
Castor Bean (annual) **db**  
Lily-of-the-Valley **db**  
Tulip **db**  
Opium Poppy  
Primula  
Monkshood  
Sunflower  
Scilla  
English Bluebell  
Morning Glory **c**  
Delphinium **db c**

### Houseplants

Rhododendron / Azalea  
Amaryllis  
Oleander  
Dieffenbachia **db c**  
Swiss Cheese Plant (Monstera) **db c**  
English Ivy (Hedera) **db**  
Caladium **db c**  
Philodendron **db c**  
Aloe  
Australian Umbrella Tree **db**  
Mother-in-law Plant **db c**  
Cyclamen  
Poinsettia **db**  
Kalanchoe **c**  
Spathiphyllum (Peace Lily) **db c**

### Weeds / Native Plants

Lamb's Quarters  
Common Groundsel  
Stinging Nettle **db**  
Leafy Spurge  
Spotted Water Hemlock  
Black Nightshade  
Wild Calla

### Edibles

Chokecherry  
Potato plant **db**  
Garlic  
Rhubarb  
Opium Poppy  
Horseradish  
Broad Bean

Plants with a **db** may affect dogs.  
Plants with a **c** may affect cats.

