

What is springing up in your neighborhood?

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Here in Cincinnati as spring hits the air, calls will flood in about plant exposures, ranging from the curious toddler snacking on petals to animals devouring entire plants. So, what's in bloom this time of year in Cincinnati, Ohio? — Bulbs, bulbs, and more bulbs!



It is important to know that not all plant exposures are poisonous. There are several non-toxic plants. Following is a partial listing of some toxic and non-toxic plants.

Toxic	Non-toxic
American Ivy	Abella
Azalea	African Violet
Bittersweet	Aluminum Plant
Black Locust	Begonia
Crocus	Coleus
Daffodil	Daisises
Cyclamen	Dandelion
Deadly Nightshade	Easter Lily
Dogbane	Gardenia
Elephant's Ear	Hibiscus
Holly	Holly Fern
Hyacinth	Impatiens
Hydrangea	Jade plant
Jerusalem Cherry	Lilac
Jimson Weed	Magnolia
Lily of the Valley	Marigold
Moonflower	Monkey Plant
Monkshood	Purple Passion
Morning Glory	Pussy Willow
Oleander	Swedish Ivy
Philodendron	Tiger Lily
Pokeweed	Velvet Plant
Rhododendron	Wandering Jew
Rhubarb	Wax Plant
Yew	Zebra Plant

Plant exposures vary depending on the area of the country. A child in Arizona may find some Oleander or Mexican bird of paradise, but back east in New York an exposure would typically be about bulbs this time of year. A plant exposure in the Northwest in Oregon might include the Oregon grape, which is not a grape at all. It gets its name from the purple clusters of berries resembling grapes in the summer, but in the spring it bears beautiful yellow flowers. Springtime findings in the north in Wisconsin and Minnesota tend to again be mostly flowering bulbs, while south in Texas, you're more likely to hear the words, "We don't really have plants." Desert areas have very few plant exposures throughout the year. Springtime exposures in sunny Florida may involve the rosary pea, angels and devils trumpet, the Brazilian pepper berry, and even a few calls on castor beans.

Fortunately, most accidental exposures to plants among young children involve nibbling and rarely produce more than temporary discomfort. Do not try to treat a plant exposure yourself, always call the experts at the Drug and Poison Information Center 24/7 at (800) 222-1222.

To prevent poisoning:

- Know the names of your house and yard plants.
- Keep poisonous plants out of reach of small children and pets.
- Teach young children never to put leaves, stems, bark, seeds, nuts or berries from any plant into their mouths.
- Never eat a wild plant or mushroom unless positive of its identity and that it is edible.

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