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[Home](#) > [FAQs](#) > Poinsettia > Printer-friendly PDF

Poinsettia

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Poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*): Also called Christmas star or Mexican flameleaf. A household plant which is commonly sold at Christmas time. May grow outdoors in warmer climates such as Mexico.

Is it toxic? All parts of the plant contain a sap, which can cause irritation to eyes and skin and mild stomach upset if swallowed.

Health Effects:

Eyes: May cause mild irritation but serious damage to the eye is not expected.

Skin: Often results in no symptoms. Possible mild irritation in sensitive people.

Ingestion: May not result in any symptoms. Possible irritation to mouth and mild stomach upset.

What to do:

Eyes: Rinse eyes with lukewarm water with one of the following methods:

- Pour a gentle stream of water from a jug or clean teapot over the eye from the inside corner by the nose, across the eye, flowing out towards the ear.
- Submerge eye in a container (bowl, sink) of lukewarm water. Have patient open and close eye.
- Eye may be irrigated in the shower if this can be accomplished without delay.
- Young children may be wrapped like a mummy in a towel with arms at side and held over sink or tub or laid on counter during flushing.

Skin: Wash skin with soap and water and rinse thoroughly.

Ingestion: Rinse out mouth and drink a glass of water or milk.

Do not induce vomiting. If symptoms persist after the above first aid measures contact the Poison Control Centre.

How can I prevent exposure? Keep out of reach of small children and pets.

Need more information: Call the Poison Control Centre.

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Keywords:

plants: dermatitis

plants: gastrointestinal irritant

We are grateful to all the First Nations who have cared for and nurtured the lands and waters around us for all time, including the xʔmʔʔkʔʔyʔʔm (Musqueam), Skʔwxʔwuʔ7mesh Uʔxwumixw (Squamish Nation), and sʔlʔilwʔtaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation) on whose unceded and ancestral territory our centre is located.

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