



SPRING HAS SPRUNG AT THE POISON CENTER

Spring is a favorite season for many people, and it is certainly easy to understand why. The earth comes back to life after a cold winter, and flowers and plants begin to return after the long winter. If there was any doubt that spring is here you only have to ask the nurses at the Poison Center. The calls on carbon monoxide and cough and cold medicines have been replaced by gasoline, ant killer, fertilizers, spring cleaning chemicals and critters that bite and sting.

This is a good time to spend a few minutes safeguarding against possible spring poisoning hazards.

- Mixing certain cleaning chemicals can create toxic gases. Breathing in these gases can cause coughing, burning of the eyes, nose and throat and difficulty breathing. Never mix cleaning products and always work in a well-ventilated area when using these.
- Fertilizers can irritate the skin. After using fertilizers, stay off the grass until the product has been watered in. Pesticides are a more dangerous hazard and you should take careful precautions when using or applying. Wear protective clothing and do not apply on a windy day. Always store lawn chemicals in the original containers with labels that list ingredients, directions for use, and first-aid steps in case of an accidental poisoning.
- Use caution when choosing plants during spring planting season. Some plants, trees and flowers can be harmful. Keep all house plants out of children's reach and teach children never to put mushrooms, berries or any part of a plant in their mouth. Know the names of the plants in your house and yard before you have an exposure. The poison center can help you with this by providing a brochure with information about toxic plants.
- Call the Poison Center if you are stung by a bee or bitten by a spider or snake. The nurses answering your call will provide the information that you need.
- When using ant killer, carefully read the label and avoid products that contain arsenic. Be sure to keep it out of the reach of children.

Remember, prevention is the best treatment for poisonings. If you would like a free brochure with information on plants, contact the Poison Center by calling toll-free at 1-800-222-1222.

The Nebraska Regional Poison Center is sponsored by The Nebraska Medical Center and University of Nebraska Medical Center and the Wyoming Department of Health Office of Emergency Medical Services.



NEWS RELEASE

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