

SAFETY TIPS FOR WORKING IN YOUR GARDEN



- Teach children to not put any part of a plant in their mouth without checking with an adult first.
- Know the names of plants, including scientific names, on your property in case some are toxic or cause injury.
- Do not eat landscape plants or make teas, poultices, compresses, etc. with them.
- Take care when gardening around plants with thorns, spines or toxic sap. Avoid injury by wearing thick gloves and eye protection and clean up all plant parts after pruning.
- Harmful plants including ones with spines, thorns or toxic sap should be planted away from public sidewalks or walkways.
- Children and pets should always be supervised when playing in the garden.

ucanr.edu/sites/PlantSafely



Please visit our website for more information about planting safely in your drought-tolerant landscape, including a list of commonly used toxic and harmful plants.

The intent of UCCE's "Plant Safely" project is to demonstrate how gardeners and homeowners can safely enjoy these plants by implementing a few simple safety measures.

DISCLAIMER!

Our publications do not provide a complete plant database and only reference poisonous plants for informational purposes. If a plant is not included in our listings it does not mean the plant is safe for consumption or gardening.

This brochure is not meant to replace the expert advice of a qualified poison specialist or physician. In the event of a poison emergency call the number listed below.

CALIFORNIA POISON HOTLINE
1-800-222-1222 or 9-1-1

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PLANT SAFELY IN DROUGHT-TOLERANT LANDSCAPES



some beautiful plants should
be handled with care



SOME PLANTS ARE TOXIC DO NOT EAT THEM



Tropical Milkweed



Nightshade



Sago Palm



Mock Orange

SOME PLANTS CONTAIN TOXIC SAP BE CAREFUL AND WEAR GLOVES



Fire Sticks aka Pencil Cactus, Sticks on Fire, or Milkbush



SOME PLANTS HAVE THORNS, SPINES OR CAUSE SKIN IRRITATION



Agave



Prickly Pear



Bougainvillea



Mexican Grass Tree

■ Many kinds of nightshade (*Solanum*), milkweeds (*Asclepias*), Sago palms (*Cycas revoluta*) and Mock Orange (*Pittosporum*) are poisonous if eaten.

■ There are many food crops in the nightshade (Solanaceae) family like chiles, potatoes, tomatoes, eggplants, and others, which can be safely planted in the home landscape, as long as one doesn't eat the leaves or stems.

■ Always supervise pets and children in your garden and plant these kinds of plants out of reach of children and pets.

■ Note that because many plants in the Spurge (Euphorbiaceae) family may contain toxic sap, it is advised to always wear gloves and eye protection when handling, pruning or gardening around these kinds of plants.

■ Fire Sticks (*Euphorbia tirucalli*) can be problematic because it appears harmless since it has no spines or sharp edges to warn people about its toxic, milky sap. One may accidentally brush up against its brittle 'leaves' while walking near it and be severely injured from the plant releasing its sap.

■ Children and pets should not play near this plant or any plant with toxic sap.

■ Agave leaves contain toxic sap and many species have spines; Bougainvillea thorns can irritate your skin; cacti have many spines; and the edges of Mexican Grass Tree leaves can be very sharp.

■ Note how large these plants can reach when fully grown, then plant them a safe distance away from walkways or paths.

■ Wear protective gear when handling or pruning these plants and be sure to thoroughly clean up the ground after trimming.

■ Supervise children and pets playing near these plants. Don't allow children to play barefoot near these plants.