



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Central Luzon Center for Health Development



13 April 2026

ADVISORY

TO : PROVINCIAL/CITY/MUNICIPAL HEALTH OFFICES
SANITATION INSPECTORS/ENGINEERS
PROGRAM COORDINATORS, FWBDPCP
MEDICAL OFFICERS AND NURSES, DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION
REGIONAL PARTNER AGENCIES
OTHER STAKEHOLDERS CONCERNED
[REDACTED]

FROM : CORAZON J. FLORES, MD, MPH, CESO III
Director IV

SUBJECT : Prevention on the Dangers of Consuming Fruits from Toxic and Non-Edible Plants (e.g., Jatropha curcas, Ricinus communis, Thevetia peruviana, and Nerium oleander)

Republic of the Philippines DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION Schools Division Office of Bulacan	
ADVISORY	
To:	No. <u>028</u> , S. <u>2026</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE <input type="checkbox"/> PSDS
<input type="checkbox"/> ELEMENTARY	<input type="checkbox"/> JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL <input type="checkbox"/> SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
<input type="checkbox"/> ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS / SCHOOL HEADS	
<input type="checkbox"/> SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS / SCHOOL HEADS	
For information:	[REDACTED]
CECILIA E. VALDERAMA, PhD, CESO V Schools Division Superintendent	

Many plants found in homes, schools, and public spaces bear fruit-like structures that may be mistaken as safe for consumption. However, ingestion can cause poisoning due to naturally occurring toxins. Reported cases, particularly among children, highlight the need for increased awareness and preventive measures.

Poisoning from non-edible plants is a preventable public health concern, with children at higher risk due to curiosity and limited ability to distinguish safe from harmful plants.

Certain plants, such as *Jatropha curcas* (Big Purge Nut), *Ricinus communis* (Castor Bean), *Thevetia peruviana* (Yellow Oleander), and *Nerium oleander* (Oleander), contain toxic substances that may cause gastrointestinal irritation, cardiovascular complications, and other serious health effects when ingested.

This Department of Health Central Luzon Center for Health Development aims to promote prevention, early recognition of symptoms, and timely medical consultation to reduce illness and complications.

A. General Public

- Do not consume fruits, seeds, or any plant parts unless confirmed safe and edible.
- Educate children to avoid eating unknown plants or fruits found outdoors.
- Ensure proper supervision of children in areas with vegetation.
- Avoid using non-edible plants for traditional or medicinal purposes without proper guidance.

B. Parents, Guardians, and Schools

- Conduct health education on the dangers of toxic plants.
- Identify and remove or fence off hazardous plants in homes and school premises.
- Integrate plant safety awareness into school health programs.



C. Local Government Units (LGUs) and Stakeholders

- Implement community awareness campaigns on plant poisoning prevention.
- Promote environmental safety through proper landscaping in public areas.
- Coordinate with health offices for prompt reporting and response to poisoning incidents.

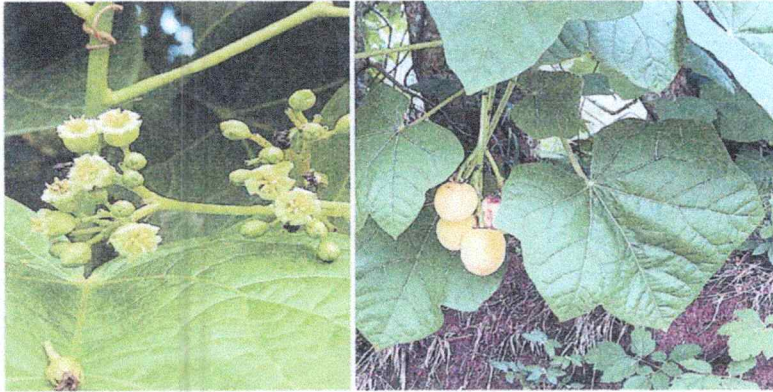
D. Health Facilities and Health Workers

- Strengthen surveillance and reporting of poisoning cases.
- Ensure prompt assessment and supportive management of suspected cases.
- Conduct health promotion activities on prevention of toxic exposures.

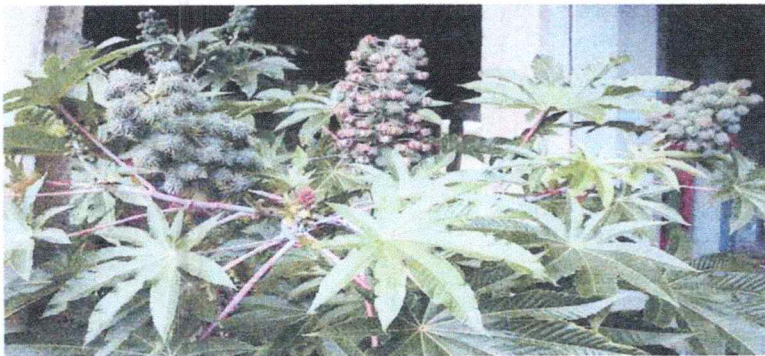
In case of suspected poisoning, do not induce vomiting. Rinse the mouth with clean water, and if the patient is conscious, provide small sips of water. Immediate medical attention should be sought at the nearest health facility. If available, bring a sample or a photo of the suspected plant to assist in proper identification and management.



ANNEX: Sample Photos of Common Toxic Plants



Jatropha curcas
“Big Purge Nut”
(Tubang-bakod, Tuba-tuba,
Taba-taba)



Ricinus communis
“Castor Bean”
(Tangan-tangan, Lansina)



Thevetia peruviana
“Yellow Oleander”
(Campanilla, Campanero)



Nerium oleander
“Oleander”
(Adelfa)