

Are poinsettias poisonous?

Christmas trees, Santa Claus, menorahs, and glittering lighting displays are just a few of the many prominent symbols of the holiday season. And while mistletoe might garner more attention and inspire more displays of affection, poinsettias are another prominent sign that the holiday season has arrived.

Thanks to its bright red and green colors, the poinsettia is perhaps the ideal holiday plant. But as much as it suits holiday decor and seems tailor-made for that special time of year between Thanksgiving and the first of January, the poinsettia has a reputation that few plants would want.

First discovered in Mexico and brought to the United States by Dr. Joel Poinsett, the poinsettia has long been rumored to be poisonous. However, the National Capital

Poison Center notes poinsettias are not deadly. In fact, the NCPC notes that the rumor that poinsettias are deadly may have been around for more than a century, tracing its origins all the way back to a child who was found dead lying next to a poinsettia plant. The plant was blamed for the child's death, and even though that blame was misplaced, the stigma stuck. WebMD notes that others trace the false rumors surrounding poinsettias to 1919, when parents blamed the death of their daughter, who they thought had eaten poinsettia leaves, on this ubiquitous holiday plant.

Even today, when researchers have long since proven that poinsettias are not deadly, many people still believe they can be fatal if consumed.

The NCPC notes that, in most cases,

exposure to any part of a poinsettia plant in children or pets has little, if any, effect. However, if the plant is swallowed, some people and pets may experience symptoms including nausea, vomiting or diarrhea. Some who touch the plant may develop a rash after contact.

While poinsettias are not deadly, the NCPC still advises those who plan to include the plant in their holiday decor to take every measure necessary to prevent children and pets from swallowing it. Placing poinsettias beyond the reach of kids and pets is one simple way to accomplish just that.

Poinsettias are seemingly everywhere come the holiday season. And because they're not fatal, celebrants can continue to display these beautiful plants that call to mind the colors of the holiday season.




Rejoice
in the
Reason for the Season

On Christmas morn, we celebrate our Savior born and his ever-present love for us. May the pure joy of this holy season bring contentment to your heart, enlightenment to your soul and strength to your faith.

*May Peace Be Upon You
This Christmas and Always*



ROUN MCNEAL
State Representative - District 105



CINNAMON CARAMEL SWIRL BARS

Prep: 25 minutes Cook: 35 minutes Servings: 24

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons McCormick Ground Cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 cups firmly packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, melted
- 2 eggs
- 1 tablespoon McCormick Pure Vanilla Extract
- 1 cup coarsely chopped pecans
- 1 package (14 ounces) caramels, unwrapped
- 1/4 cup milk

DIRECTIONS:

Heat oven to 350 F. In medium bowl, mix flour, baking powder, cinnamon and salt. Set aside.

In large bowl, mix brown sugar, butter, eggs, vanilla and pecans until well blended. Add flour mixture; mix well. Reserve 1 cup batter. Spread remaining batter into lightly greased, foil-lined, 13-by-9-inch baking pan. Bake 15 minutes, or until firm.

In microwavable bowl, microwave caramels and milk on high 2-3 minutes, or until caramels are completely melted, stirring after each minute. Cool 5 minutes, or until slightly thickened. Pour over baked layer in pan, spreading to within 1/2 inch of edges. Drop reserved batter by spoonfuls over caramel layer. With knife, cut through batter several times for marble effect.

Bake 15-20 minutes, or until center is set. Cool in pan on wire rack. Lift from pan. Cut into bars.



Hallelujah!

*On this holy occasion,
we offer our thanks for
the blessing of your
Friendship.*

From Pastor Mickey McLendon and members of

East Salem Baptist Church

37926 Hwy. 57 • Leakesville

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Greetings of the Season

*With wishes warm and bright to all of our neighbors this holiday season.
We're honored to serve you and are deeply grateful for your trust in us.*



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