**Fertilizer**

**Article type:**
poison information  

**Access:**
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**Fertilizer** - for houseplants and backyard gardens (Does not include agricultural lime or fertilizer used in farming. These products may be corrosive. Contact the Poison Control Centre if you have been exposed.)

**What is in it?** Usually contains nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium which are essential nutrients required by plants to live and grow. Labeled with a formula that indicates the percentage of each of these nutrients. For example: A formula of 20-10-10 indicates that it contains 20% nitrogen, 10% phosphoric acid and 10% potassium. Supplied in liquid or granular form. Dolomite lime contains calcium carbonate or magnesium carbonate.

**Is it toxic?** Generally low order of toxicity. May cause irritation and upset stomach. Ingestion of large amounts may cause more serious poisoning.

**Health Effects:**
Eyes:
May cause irritation. Granular products could "scratch" the cornea if they get trapped in the eye.

**Skin:** Prolonged exposure may cause irritation.

**Ingestion:** Ingestion of small amounts may result in nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Large amounts would have to be ingested to cause poisoning - contact the Poison Control Centre if this occurs.

**What to do:**

**Eyes:** Rinse eyes with a gentle stream of lukewarm water for 5 minutes by any 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 the 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. If vomiting and diarrhea occurs ensure a good fluid intake to prevent dehydration.

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

**How can I prevent exposure?** Keep products in their original container. Store products and food in a separate area. Keep out of reach of children and pets.

**Need more information:** Call the Poison Control Centre.

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