Published on *British Columbia Drug and Poison Information Centre (BC DPIC)* (http://www.dpic.org)

Rhododendrons and Azaleas

Article type:
poison information
Access:
public

Rhododendron and Azaleas (Ericaceae family): The Rhododendron is a plant which grows as a shrub or tree. It may be evergreen or deciduous. It is best know for its many clusters of large flowers.

Is is toxic? Nectar, flowers, fruit, twigs and stems contain grayanotoxins which can cause a burning sensation to the mouth, tongue and throat if swallowed.

Health Effects:

Skin: Possible mild irritation in sensitive people.

Ingestion: Small ingestions may cause a burning sensation to mouth, tongue, lips and throat, It may also cause stomach upset. Large ingestions may cause drowsiness and changes to blood pressure and heart rate.

What to do:

Skin: Wash skin with soap and water, and rinse thoroughly

Ingestion: Do not induce vomiting. Rinse out mouth and drink a glass of water or milk. Popsicles work well also. **Contact the Poison Control Centre.**

Need more information: Call the Poison Control Centre.

© 2010 BC Drug and Poison Information Centre

Keywords:
plants: grayanotoxins

© 2015 BC Drug and Poison Information Centre

All material found on the BC Drug and Poison Information Centre (DPIC) website is provided for informational purposes only. It is *not* meant to replace the expert advice of a healthcare professional such as a physician, pharmacist, nurse or qualified poison specialist. Use of this site is governed and restricted by specific terms of use. Please review the **full terms and conditions** below prior to using the DPIC website. In the event of a poisoning emergency, call your local poison control centre immediately. Portions of this web site are intended for healthcare professionals. Interpretation and application of information may require more detailed explanation than contained herein, particularly regarding any clinical information that is found in or linked to this site. Patients are advised to consult their health care provider regarding diagnosis and treatment, and for assistance in interpreting these materials and applying them in individual cases.

Terms and Conditions

Source URL (retrieved on *2015-07-02 09:30*): http://www.dpic.org/faq/rhododendrons-and-azaleas