



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION III
SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICE OF BATAAN

DIVISION ADVISORY

APR 22 2026

No. 134, s. 2026

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chief Education Supervisors
Education Program Supervisors
Public Schools District Supervisors
Public Elementary and Secondary School Heads
All Others Concerned

This Office disseminates the attached Health Advisory from the Department of Health (DOH) Central Luzon Center for Health Development regarding the prevention of poisoning caused by the ingestion of fruits and seeds from toxic, non-edible plants.

Many plants found within school premises and surrounding communities may bear fruit-like structures that can be mistakenly consumed, especially by learners. Some of these plants contain naturally occurring toxins that may cause serious health effects such as gastrointestinal irritation and cardiovascular complications when ingested.

In view of this, all School Heads are directed to take the following preventive measures:

- a. ensure teachers and guards monitor learners, especially during recess and dismissal, to prevent them from picking or eating unknown plants/fruits;
- b. identify and, if possible, remove or fence off hazardous plants within the school perimeter and gulayan sa paaralan;
- c. integrate plant safety awareness in classroom discussions (e.g., Science or Health) and during flag ceremonies; and
- d. in case of suspected poisoning, do not induce vomiting. Rinse the mouth with water and bring the learner to the nearest health facility immediately. If possible, bring a sample or photo of the plant for identification.

Attached herewith is Annex A: Sample Photos of Toxic Plants for reference and guidance in identifying hazardous plants commonly found in communities.



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For information, guidance, and compliance.


CAROLINA S. VIOLETA, EdD, CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent 

S09/WJDS
APRIL 22, 2026



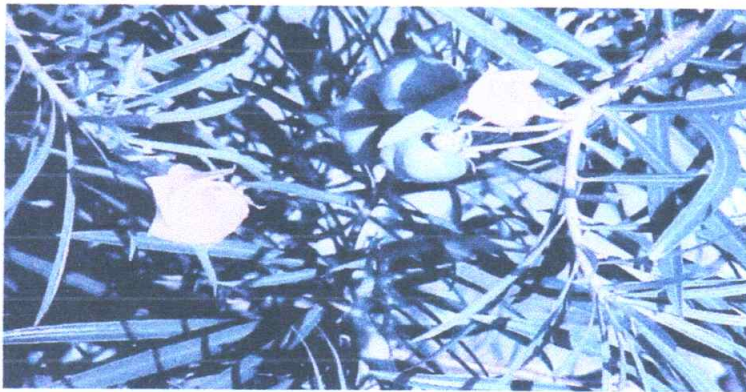
ANNEX: Sample Photos of Common Toxic Plants



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)

ADVISORY

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BY: _____

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

FROM : CORAZON L. 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)

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.