



Poison HOTLINE

Partnership between Iowa Health System and
University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics

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Did you know

Common Spring garden plants including the Daffodil, Lily of the Valley, Rhododendron, Azalea, and Oleander are all plants found on the toxic plant list.

April showers will inevitably result in mushroom growth. Those little brown mushrooms growing in the lawn may also cause illness when ingested.

Contact the ISPCC immediately at **1-800-222-1222** if you think someone has eaten any part of a plant or mushroom.

Visit the ISPCC website at www.iowapoisson.org for a toxic/non-toxic plant list.

K2, Spice and Dream Potential dangers of “fake marijuana”

Twenty-two U.S. poison centers, including the ISPCC, have recently received calls about products referred to as “fake marijuana” or “synthetic marijuana.” While making the mainstream news in the US since late 2009, these products have been of concern in Europe since early 2008.

The products, some of which are K2, Spice, Dream, Zohai and Genie, are herbal incense mixtures which contain various synthetic cannabinoids. Some of the more common cannabinoids are JWH-018, JWH-073, HU-210, HU-211 and CP 47,497. These synthetic cannabinoids stimulate the same receptors in the brain as tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the main ingredient in natural marijuana. The cannabinoids’ potency range from three times to hundreds of times the potency of THC. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has labeled these cannabinoids as “drugs and chemicals of concern,” but only HU-210 is a Schedule 1 controlled substance. Currently, it is believed that none of these cannabinoids are detected by routine marijuana drug screens.

Reports on the internet from people who have smoked these products say that the effects range from having no effect to producing the same type of high as they have experienced from smoking regular marijuana.

The experiences reported to poison centers, either by the user themselves or by health care professionals, are different from the depressant effects expected from smoking marijuana. Nearly all of the patients had anxiety and anxiousness. Other symptoms included dizziness, panic attacks, severe agitation, hallucinations, seizures, pale skin, vomiting and elevated heart rate. Some patients have also had tremors and chest pain. No deaths have been reported. At this time, it’s unclear why users are experiencing these effects but it’s thought that these effects are either dose related or the result of other drugs or chemicals in the products. The treatment for these patients is symptomatic and supportive.

The Iowa Statewide Poison Control Center is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to answer questions about K2, synthetic cannabinoids or any other substance that could be harmful to your health.

*Tammy Noble, RN, CSPI
Certified Specialist in Poison Information*

POISON
Help
1-800-222-1222

The logo for Poison Help. It features the word "POISON" in a bold, black, sans-serif font at the top. Below it, the word "Help" is written in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. To the right of "Help" is a red pill bottle with a white skull and crossbones symbol on its label. Below "Help" is the phone number "1-800-222-1222" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

Post and share this edition of **Poison Hotline** with your colleagues. Send comments or questions to Poison Hotline, 712-234-8775 (fax) or nobletf@ihs.org. To subscribe or unsubscribe from this distribution list, contact the Iowa Poison Center education office at 712-279-3717. Read past issues of **Poison Hotline** at www.iowapoisson.org.