



Safe & Toxic Woods

Safe Plants

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|------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Acacia | Corn Plant | Jade Plant | Rubber Tree |
| African Violet | Crab Apple | Kalanchoe | Schefflera |
| Aloe Plant | Dandelion | Magnolia | Sensitive Plant |
| Asparagus Fern | Dogwood | Eucalyptus | Spider Plant |
| Baby's Tears | Donkey Tail | Monkey Plant | Snake Plant |
| Bamboo | Dracaena | Nasturtium | Swedish Ivy |
| Begonia | Dragon Tree | Oregano | Thyme |
| Boston Fern | Easter Cactus | Palms | Thistle |
| Bougainvillea | Ferns | Pittosporum | Wandering Jew |
| Chickweed | Figs | Petunias | Wax Plant |
| Christmas Cactus | Gardenia | Prayer Plant | White Clover |
| Coffee Tree | Grape Ivy | Rose | Zebra Plant |
| Coleus | Hens & Chickens | Rosemary | Love Your Tiel |

Coffee Tree should not be confused with Coffee Plant.

Coffee Plants are toxic.

Safe Trees and Woods for Bird Perches and Toys:

DO NOT use wood that has been treated with pesticides or other chemicals.



Almond, Apple, Arbutus, Ash, Bamboo, Beech, Birch, Cottonwood, Citrus Trees, Crabapple, Dogwood, Elm, Fir, Hazelnut, Palms, Pear, Pecan, Pine, Poplar, Hawthorne, Larch, Lilac, Magnolia, Manzanita, Mulberry, Redwood, Willow.

DO NOT use wood from any tree or plant that has ever been chemically treated with pesticides or any other type of chemical.

Safe Natural Woods for Perches or Toys

- Alder
- Almond
- Apple
- Apricot
- Ash
- Bamboo
- Beech
- Birch
- Citrus
- Dogwood
- Elm
- Eucalyptus*
- Goat Willow
- Guava
- Grape
- Honeysuckle
- Mandrone
- Manzanita
- Maple (not red)
- Mesquite
- Oak*
- Papaya
- Pear
- Pine
- Poplar
- Prune
- Pussy Willow
- Ribbon Wood



- Thurlow
- Vine Maple
- Walnut
- Weeping Willow
- Willow

Cleaning Tree Branches Before Using

To **destroy** mold, fungus, parasites, bacteria and other living organisms, soak all branches in a few gallons of water, with 1 tablespoon of bleach, for 1 hour.

Rinse branches well with clean water. To dry small branches, bake in a 250 degree Fahrenheit oven for 1 hour.

Dry large branches outdoors in direct sunlight

Toxic, Poisonous Woods for Bird Perches and Toys

DO NOT use wood from apricot, peach, prune or nectarine trees.

These trees belong to the **Prunus species**. The wood can release **cyanide** if eaten by a bird.



Bad wood

ALDER - **red** alder -see Alder Buckthorn paragraph
ANDROMEDA -Pieris, Lily of the Valley shrub
APRICOT
ARROWHEAD VINE
AUSTRALIAN FLAME TREE
AUSTRALIAN UMBRELLA TREE
AVACADO
AZALEA - Related to Rhododendron
BANE BERRY - Actaea
BEANS -castor, horse, fava, broad, glory, scarlet runner
BLACK LOCUST - Robinia
BOX ELDER - **see maple paragraph**
BOXWOOD - Buxus
BUCKTHORN - **Cascara / Alder Buckthorn - see paragraph**
BRACKEN FERN
BURDOCK
CACAO
CAMEL BUSH - Trichodesma
CANARY BIRD BUSH - Crotalaria
CANNABIS
CASTOR BEAN
CEDAR - Thuja, Chamaecyparis, Cupressus
CHALICE - trumpet vine
CHERRY **see comments below**
CHINA BERRY TREE - Melia / Texas umbrella tree
CHINESE MAGNOLIA - uncertain for safety
CHINESE POPCORN / TALLOW
CHINESE SNAKE TREE - Laquer plant
COMMON SAGE
CORIANDER - Cilantro
DATURA
DAPHNE - it's the berries
DATURA STRAMONIUM - Brugmansia - angel's trumpet
DIEFFENBACHIA
ELDERBERRY
EUONYMUS - Includes burning bush and more
EUPHORBIA
FELT PLANT - Kalancho baharensis
FLAME TREE
FIRETHORN - Pyracantha
FLAME TREE - Brachychiton / Sterculia
FOXGLOVE - Digitalis (pharmaceutical source)
GOLDEN CHAIN TREE - Laburnum
GROUND CHERRY
CROWN OF THORNS
HEATHS
HEMLOCK - Tsuga
HOLLY - Ilex
HONEY LOCUST - Gleditsia
HORSE CHESTNUT - Aesculus
HUCKLEBERRY - leaves bad: evergreen & deciduous
HYDRANGEA
JASMINE

Safe wood

ACACIA - Silk Tree would be in this group
APPLE -
(Insecticide residue likely cause for periodic issues)
AILANTHUS - Tree of Heaven
ALDER - **white** alder -
(See paragraph about Alder / Buckthorn)
ALMOND
ARALIA - Fatsia japonica
ASH - Fraxinus
ASPEN - Populus
BAMBOO
BARBERRY- Berberis
BIRCH - **see paragraph**
BEECH - Fagus
BOIS D'ARC - horse apple tree
BOTTLE BRUSH
BUTTERFLY BUSH
CAMELLIA
CITRUS -
(lime, kumquat, grapefruit, orange, lemon)
CORK -
(not wood from cork oak, but cork)
CORN PLANTS
COTTONWOOD - Populus
CRABAPPLE - Malus
CRAPE MYRTLE -
(not the same as myrtle)
DATE
DOGWOOD - Cornus
DOUGLAS FIR - Pseudotsuga
DRACAENA
ELM - Ulmus
ESCALLONIA
EUCALYPTUS
FIG
FIR - genus Abies
GINKGO
GRAPE VINES
GRAPE PALM
GUAVA
HACKBERRY
HAWTHORN - Crataegus
HIBISCUS
HICKORY
IRONWOOD - apparently toxic leaves
JADE PLANT



JUNIPER - Juniperus
KALMIA: also called Mountain Laurel
KENTUCKY COFFEE TREE
LANTANA - red sage
LAUREL - Prunus
LEUCOTHOE
LUPINE
MANGO - (fruit okay: not wood or leaves)
MEXICAN BREADFRUIT
MOCK ORANGE - Philadelphus
MONSTERA - big hunker of a house plant
MOUNTAIN LAUREL - Kalmia latifolia
MYRTLE - broadleaf evergreen, not crape myrtle
NECTARINE
NUTMEG
OAK - Quercus - all parts / tannins
MISTLETOE
OLEANDER
PEACH
PEAR - some sources lean toward safe
PENCILTREE
PITCH PINE
PLUM
PRARIE OAK - safety uncertain
PRIVET
RAIN TREE
RED **MAPLE** - see Maple paragraph
RED SAGE - Lantana
REDWOOD - Sequiadendron, Metasequoia, Sequoia
RHODODENDRON
RHUBARB
SAND BOX TREE - sap was used to poison fish
SKIMMIA - entire plant: stem, berry, leaves
SOLANUM - Jerusalem cherry or pepino
SOPHORA - includes Japanese pagoda tree
SUMAC - not all sumacs are bad: see paragraphs
TOBACCO
TANSY
TOMATO
UMBRELLA TREE
WALNUT
WEeping FIG - Ficus benjamina > Ficus elastica safe
WHITE CEDAR - China
WITCH HAZEL - Hamamelis
WISTERIA
YEW - Taxus

KALANCHOE
LARCH - Larix
LILAC - Syringa
MADRONA / MADRONE - Arbutus
MAGNOLIA
MAPLE - Acer - **see Maple Paragraph**
MANZANITA - Arctostaphylos
MESQUITE - remove sharp parts
MIMOSA
MOUNTAIN ASH - Sorbus
MULBERRY - Morus - **see Mulberry note**
NANDINA - common name is heavenly bamboo
NORFOLK ISLAND PINE - Araucaria
NUT TREES - exclude chestnut
ORANGE - several sources lean toward safe
OREGON GRAPE - Mahonia
PALM
PAPAYA
PEAR
PECAN
PINE - Pinus: **see Pine paragraph below**
PHOTINIA **see Photinia paragraph below**
POPLAR - Populus
PUSSY WILLOW - Salix
RAPHIOLEPSIS - Indian Hawthorn
RIBBONWOOD
ROSE - Rosa
RUBBER PLANT - Ficus elastica - Weeping Fig in bad column
RUSSIAN OLIVE
SASSAFRAS
SILK TREE
SPIRAEA
SPRUCE - Picea
STAGHORN SUMAC - **see Sumac paragraph**
STRAWBERRY TREE - Arbutus like Madrone
SWEET GUM
SYCAMORE
THURLOW
TREE FERN
VIBURNUM
VINE MAPLE - Acer
WEeping WILLOW - Salix - **see Willow paragraph**
WIEGELA
YUCCA