

Beware of Food Poisoning Related to the Giant Alocasia

Trade Consultation Forum
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Background (1)

- ✿ Some plants (e.g. Giant Alocasia) look like taro but contain toxins and can cause food poisoning



Source: Hong Kong Information Services Department
<http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201102/22/P201102220262.htm>

- **Giant Alocasia**
- ***Alocasia macrorrhiza***

Background (2)

- ✿ Giant Alocasia contains calcium oxalate raphides (a needle-shaped crystal of the chemical) which can injure the skin and mucous membranes of consumers and cause irritation
- ✿ e.g. numbness and burning sensation of the tongue, mouth and lips, swelling of tongue or lips

Background (3)

- ✿ Consumption of vegetables that have been accidentally mixed with calcium oxalate raphides-containing plants (e.g. Giant Alocasia) may also cause food poisoning

Advice (1)

Advice to the trade

- ✿ The trade should not use the leaves of Giant Alocasia to cover vegetables during transportation and processing



Advice (2)

Advice to the public

- ✿ Purchase vegetables from reliable retailers
- ✿ Remove any plants mixed with the edible vegetables and wash the vegetables thoroughly before cooking and consumption
- ✿ Do not pick and consume wild plants

Thank you