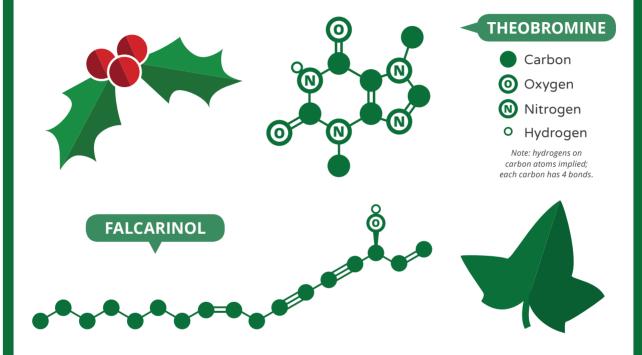
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THE HOLLY AND THE IVY



Holly berries contain bitter compounds called alkaloids, making them mildly toxic if eaten. One of these alkaloids is theobromine, also found in chocolate in small amounts. Common ivy contains a compound, falcarinol, which can cause moderate allergic reactions in some people on skin contact. This differs from the compound found in poison ivy, urushiol, which can also irritate the skin.

