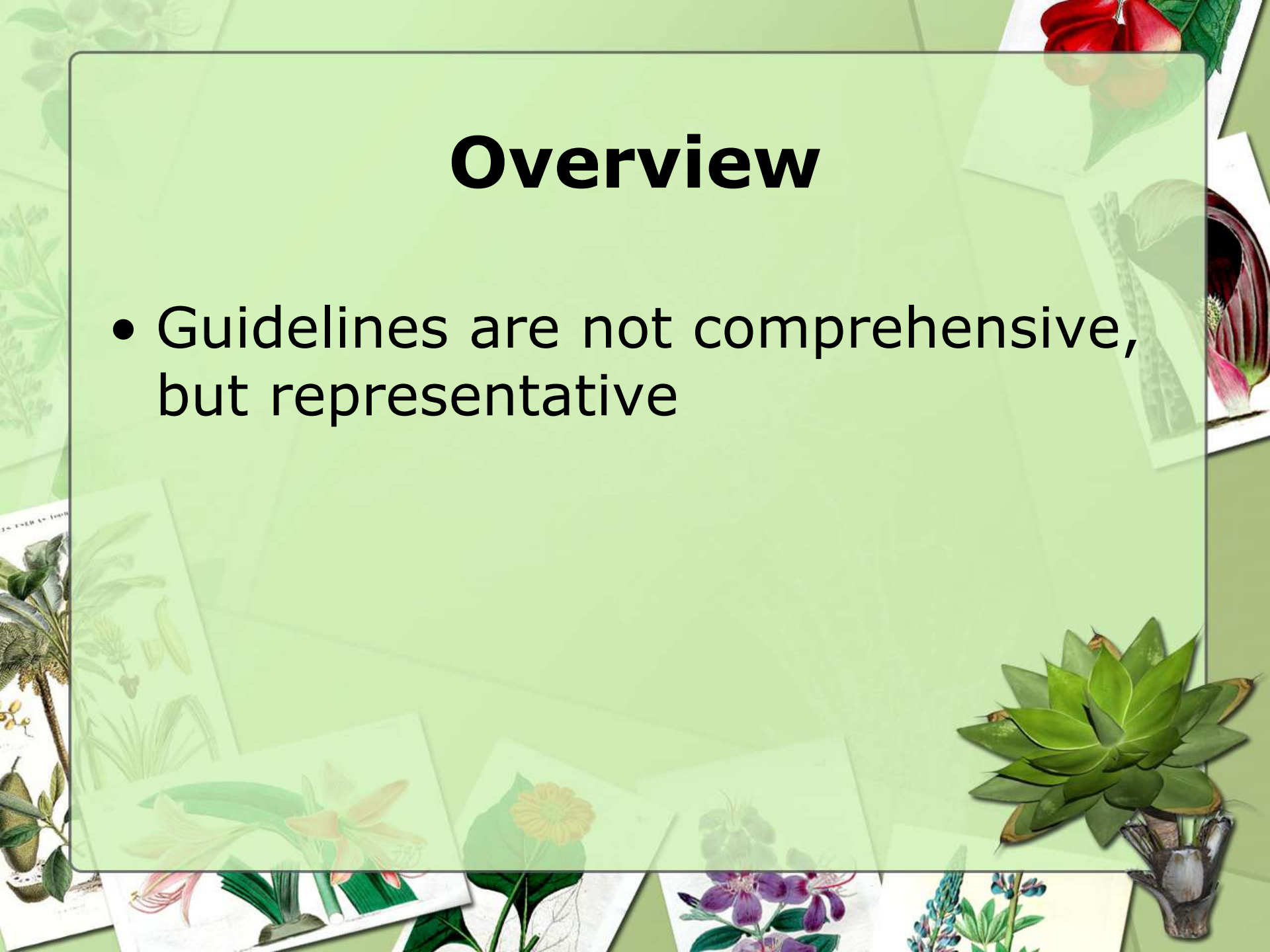


Science Safety: Elementary Teacher Legal Considerations



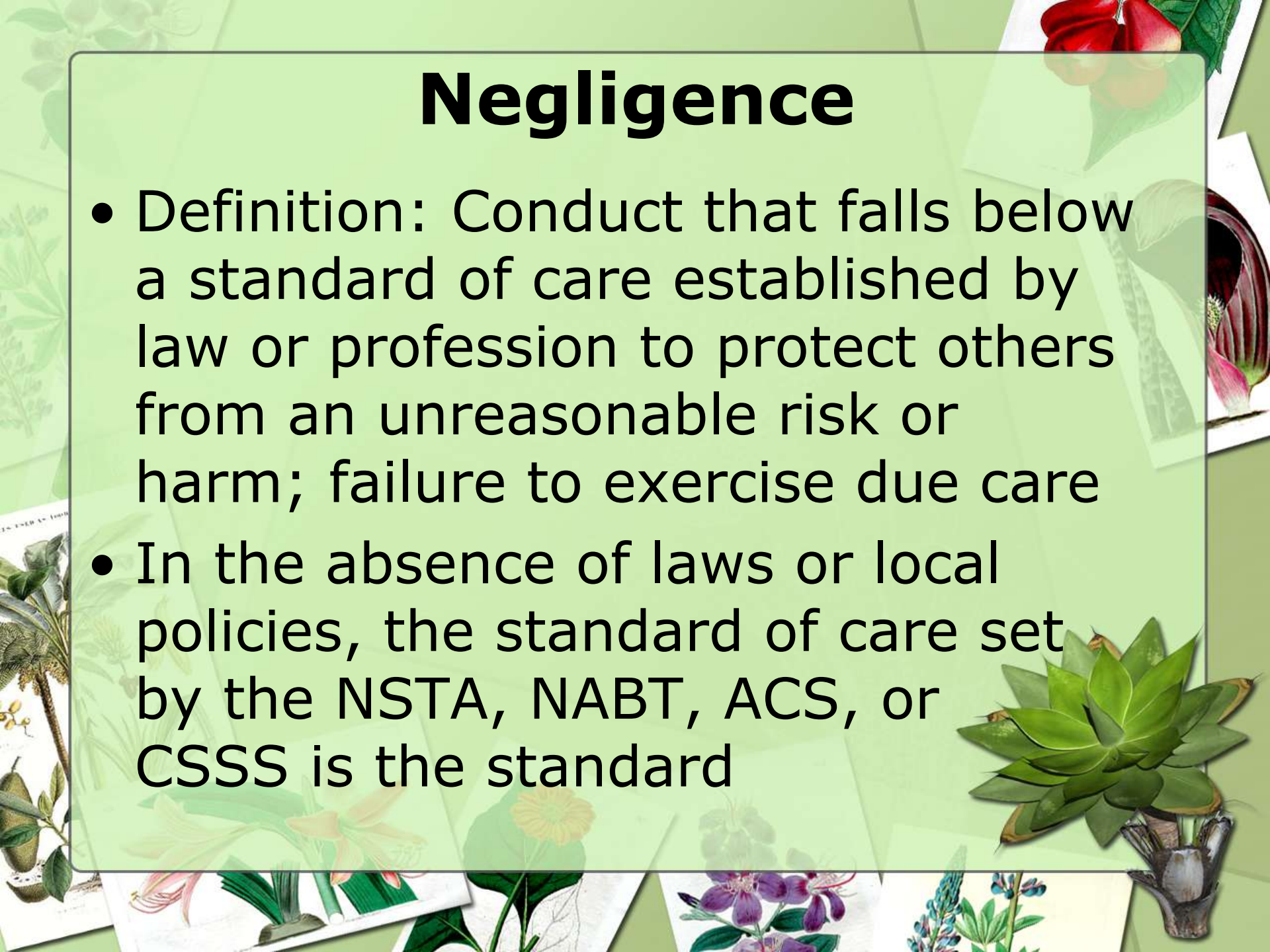
Overview

- Guidelines are not comprehensive, but representative



Negligence

- Definition: Conduct that falls below a standard of care established by law or profession to protect others from an unreasonable risk or harm; failure to exercise due care
- In the absence of laws or local policies, the standard of care set by the NSTA, NABT, ACS, or CSSS is the standard



Duty of Instruction

- Includes adequate direction prior to conducting an activity, investigation, or field experience
 - Corresponds to the situation, the setting, and the developmental level of students
 - Addresses foreseeable dangers and risks
 - Outlines proper procedures/techniques

Duty of Supervision

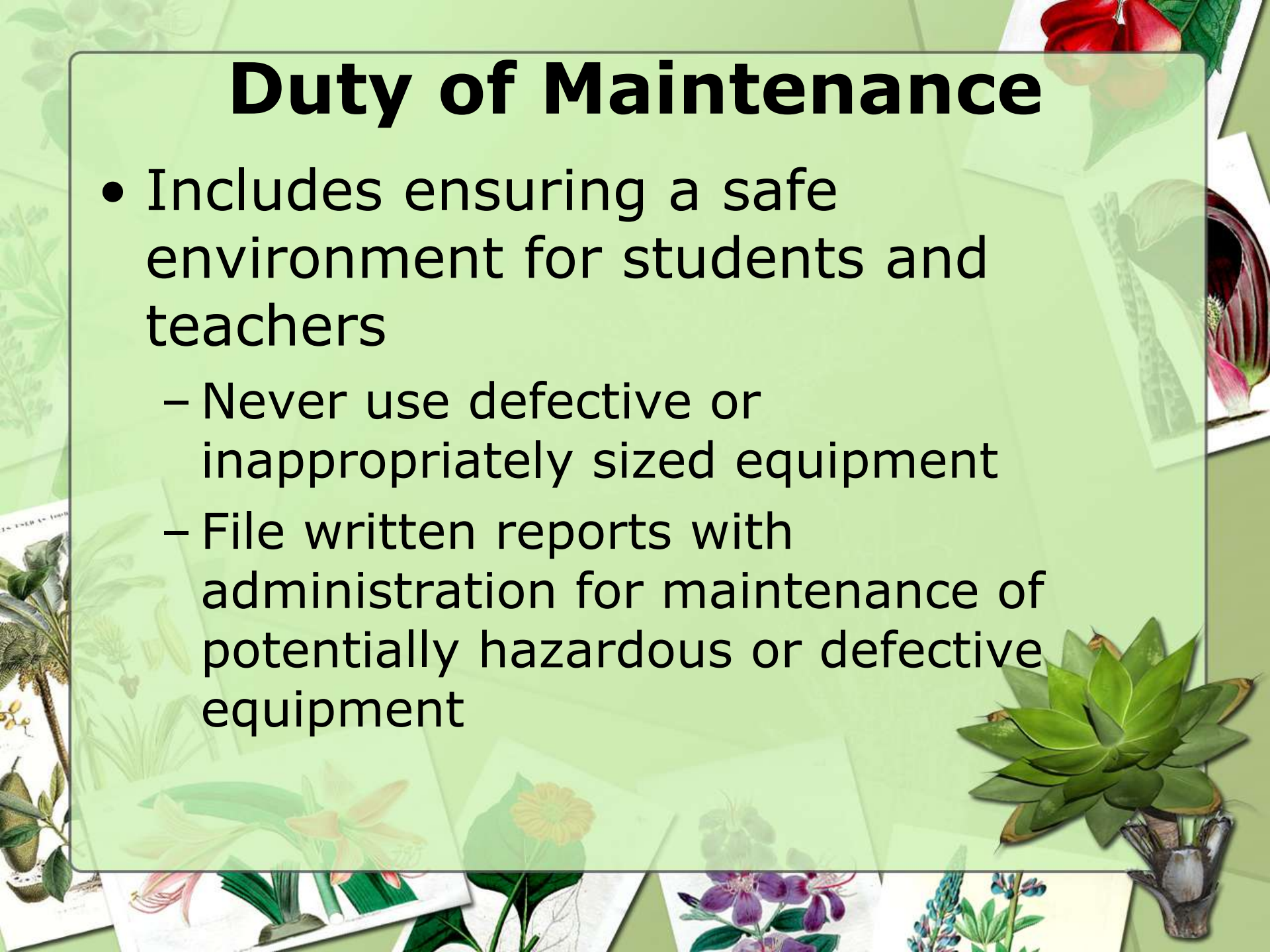
- Defined by professional, legal, and district guidelines to ensure students behave properly in light of any foreseeable risks
 - Instruct students on proper behavior
 - Correct misbehavior
 - As risk increases, supervision should also increase

Duty of Supervision

- The younger the student, the more supervision and assistance
- Never leave students unsupervised
- When conducting field experiences/trips a higher level of supervision is required

Duty of Maintenance

- Includes ensuring a safe environment for students and teachers
 - Never use defective or inappropriately sized equipment
 - File written reports with administration for maintenance of potentially hazardous or defective equipment



Duty of Maintenance

- Establish regular inspection schedules and procedures for checking classroom safety and first aid equipment
- Follow all school and district safety guidelines concerning proper labeling, storage, handling, and disposal of chemicals

Sign School Safety Roster

- Be sure to understand each of the previous items
- Sign the Roster attesting your understanding



Reflection Questions

- How do the topics in this presentation impact your classroom?
- What is one best practice that relates to this topic that you would share with colleagues or our staff?

