

GUIDE TO TOXIC PLANTS FOR PETS IN THE GARDEN

We want to keep pets happy and healthy, which is why we are raising awareness of the common plants found in the garden that are poisonous to cats and dogs. See below for a comprehensive list.

PLANT NAME	POISONOUS FOR CATS	POISONOUS FOR DOGS	CAN CAUSE:	WHAT TO DO:
ALOE VERA	✓	✓	Vomiting, diarrhoea, depression, anxiety, tremors.	Poisoning is rare but if your pet shows any signs then take them to the vet right away. Prognosis is good if care is sought urgently.
AMARYLLIS (BULBS)	✓	✓	Drooling, vomiting, hypotension, respiratory depression.	Poisoning is rare but if your pet shows any signs then take them to the vet right away. Prognosis is good if care is sought urgently.
ANGELS TRUMPET (BRUGMANSIA)	✓	✓	Poisonous if eaten. Can cause nausea and vomiting.	Contains elements that are toxic (including atropine). Take your pet to the vet if you think your pet has ingested this plant.
APPLE (SEEDS)	✓	✓	The seeds contain cyanide that can have various toxic effects including difficulty breathing, panting, shock and dilated pupils.	Only the seeds are toxic, and ingestion of a quantity large enough to cause signs of poisoning is therefore unlikely. If poisoning does occur, prognosis is good if care is sought urgently.
APRICOTS (KERNELS)	✓	✓	The kernels contain cyanide that can be fatal.	Only the kernels are toxic, and ingestion of a quantity large enough to cause signs of poisoning is therefore unlikely. If poisoning does occur, prognosis is good if care is sought urgently.
ASPARAGUS FERN	✓	✓	Berries could cause gastric upset including vomiting, abdominal pain or diarrhoea.	May require veterinary treatment in the unlikely event of a severe case.
AVOCADO (FRUIT, PITH, LEAVES)	✓	✓	Diarrhoea, vomiting, lack of stool production.	Take to the vet immediately. Prognosis with prompt treatment is usually good.
AZALEA (ALL PARTS)	Rare	✓	The toxins in azalea plants can be severe and potentially cause drooling, diarrhoea, vomiting, depression, seizures and liver failure.	Take to the vet immediately. Prognosis with prompt treatment is usually good.
BABY'S BREATH	✓	✓	Vomiting, diarrhoea, lethargy, anorexia, depression.	It's rare your cat or dog will eat enough to be poisoned but if they show any of the signs, consult your vet.
BEGONIA	✓	✓	Oral irritation, intense burning of the mouth, tongue and lips, excessive drooling, vomiting, difficulty swallowing.	Veterinary treatment may be required to control oral pain and inflammation.
BIRD OF PARADISE (PODS)	✓	✓	Oral irritation, intense burning of mouth, tongue and lips, excessive drooling, vomiting, difficulty swallowing, incoordination and diarrhoea.	Ingestion can result in marked oral irritation and inflammation that may require veterinary treatment.
BISHOP'S WEED	✓	✓	Oral irritation, intense burning and irritation of mouth, tongue and lips, excessive drooling, vomiting, difficulty swallowing.	If ingested, may require veterinary treatment.
BLEEDING HEART (DICENTRA FORMOSA)	✓	✓	Contains substances which can cause tremors, loss of coordination, drooling, and in severe cases respiratory distress, seizures and possibly even death.	Rare your cat or dog will eat enough to be poisoned but if they show any of the signs, consult your vet.
BLUEBELL	✓	✓	Toxic in large quantities causing potential cardiac problems.	It's rare your cat or dog will eat enough to be poisoned but if they show any of the signs, consult your vet.
BUXUS / BOX (ALL PARTS, MOSTLY LEAVES)	✓	✓	Can cause vomiting and/or diarrhoea.	It's rare your cat or dog will eat enough to be poisoned but if they show any of the signs, consult your vet.

CARNATION	✓	✓	Mild gastrointestinal signs, mild dermatitis.	It is unlikely you will need to seek veterinary care.
CLEMATIS (ALL PARTS)	✓	✓	Salivation, vomiting, diarrhoea.	Signs of toxicity that are severe enough to require veterinary care are unlikely.
CORDYLIN (GRASS PALM)	✓	✓	Vomiting (occasionally with blood), depression, anorexia and salivation.	It's rare your cat or dog will eat enough to be poisoned but if they show any of the signs, consult your vet.
CROCUS (ALL)	✓	✓	Vomiting and/or diarrhoea, hyperthermia, reduced kidney function and bone marrow suppression.	Toxicity varies between species. It is advisable to consult your vet.
CHRYSANTHEMUM (ALL PARTS)	✓	✓	Vomiting, diarrhoea, hyper salivation, dermatitis.	Skin and gastric irritation usually sort themselves out but veterinary attention is recommended in severe cases.
CYCLAMEN (FOLIAGE, FLOWERS, STEMS)	✓	✓	The most poisonous part is in the root. Ingestion can cause severe vomiting and gastrointestinal irritation. In some cases death can result.	Most cases reported in cats; however, the plant tastes very bitter, so it is rare your pet will eat enough to cause poisoning. Take your pet to your vet in the unlikely event this does occur.
DAFFODIL (ALL PARTS)	✓	✓	Vomiting, diarrhoea, increased heart rate, low blood pressure, tremors. Bulbs are the most poisonous part.	Most reported cases are in dogs following ingestion of bulbs. Toxicity can be quite severe and prognosis in those cases is only good if you take your dog to the vet immediately.
DAISY	✓	✓	Vomiting, diarrhoea, hyper-salivation, incoordination, dermatitis.	Skin and gastric irritation usually sort themselves out but take to your vet in severely affected cases.
DAHLIA	✓	✓	Mild gastrointestinal signs, mild dermatitis.	It's rare your cat or dog will eat enough to be poisoned but if they show any of the signs, consult your vet.
DAPHNE (BERRIES, BARK, LEAVES)	✓	✓	Drooling, vomiting, bloody diarrhoea, blistering of the mouth/stomach, coma, and death.	Toxicity possible in dogs and cats but the extreme bitter taste of the plant makes large ingestion highly unlikely. See your vet if a large amount is eaten.
DEADLY NIGHTSHADE	✓	✓	Severe gastrointestinal upset, diarrhoea, drowsiness, central nervous system affected, confusion, behavioural change, weakness, dilated pupils, slow heart rate.	Cases are rare but do require veterinary treatment when they occur.
DELPHINIUM (ALL PARTS ESPECIALLY THE SPROUTS)	✓	✓	Constipation, colic, increased salivation, muscle tremors, stiffness, weakness and convulsions. In extreme conditions, cardiac failure may result. The toxicity of the plant may depend on seasonal changes and as it matures, it becomes less toxic.	Poisonous if eaten in large quantities. It's rare your cat or dog will eat enough to be poisoned, but if they do, consult your vet immediately.
ELEPHANTS EARS (LEAVES, STEMS, ROOTS)	✓	✓	Excessive drooling, oral pain, vomiting. Swelling of the upper airway can occur in extreme cases, causing difficulty breathing.	Veterinary treatment may be required to control oral pain or inflammation.
ELDERBERRY (LEAVES, BARK, ROOTS AND BUDS)	✓	✓	Nausea and vomiting.	Veterinary treatment may be required to control oral pain or inflammation.
EUCALYPTUS (ALL PARTS)	✓	✓	Exposure to essential oil products containing eucalyptus is well documented as causing toxicity in cats, characterised by salivation, vomiting, diarrhoea, depression and weakness.	Skin irritation does not require veterinary treatment. In cases where your pet has eaten the plant, prompt veterinary treatment is required to prevent severe respiratory or neurological complications.
FOXGLOVE/DIGITALIS (LEAVES, STEMS, FLOWERS, SEEDS)	✓	✓	Drooling, nausea, vomiting, abnormal heart rate, weakness, collapse and dilated pupils. This could progress to tremors, seizures, and death.	It's rare your cat or dog will eat enough to be poisoned, but if they do, consult your vet immediately.
GARLIC	✓	✓	Vomiting, blood in urine, weakness, high heart rate and panting.	Toxic effects are well documented, but the strong smell of these plants will normally deter pets from eating. Veterinary treatment advised in rare cases where this does occur.

GARDENIA	✓	✓	Mild vomiting and/or diarrhoea and hives.	Signs of toxicity that are severe enough to require veterinary care are unlikely.
GERANIUM (ALL PARTS)	✓	✓	Toxicity appears to be quite rare but signs of poisoning include vomiting, anorexia, depression and dermatitis.	Veterinary treatment may be required for vomiting or dermatitis.
GLADIOLA (BULBS)	✓	✓	Salivation, vomiting, drooling, lethargy, diarrhoea. Highest concentration in corms (bulbs).	Signs of poisoning that are severe enough to require veterinary care are unlikely.
GRAPE PLANT/VINE	N/a	✓	The toxicity of grapes to dogs was once thought to be an urban legend, but it's true; even a small serving can cause vomiting and diarrhoea, while larger amounts can lead to kidney failure.	Cases of grape ingestion are rare. Much more common is the ingestion of dried fruits from grapes (sultanas, raisins, etc.). Even very small quantities can be highly toxic and potentially lethal. Take to the vet immediately.
HELLEBORE	✓	✓	Toxicity is quite rare but signs include drooling, abdominal pain, diarrhoea and depression.	Veterinary treatment may be required for gastrointestinal problems.
HEMLOCK	✓	✓	Diarrhoea, seizures, tremors, extreme stomach pain, dilated pupils, fever, bloating, respiratory depression, and death.	Take to the vet immediately.
HIBISCUS	✓	✓	Toxicity appears to be quite rare but signs of poisoning including vomiting, diarrhoea, nausea, and anorexia have been reported.	Veterinary treatment may be required for gastrointestinal problems.
HOLLY (LEAVES, BERRIES & STEMS)	✓	Rare	Signs usually appear within three hours and can include vomiting, diarrhoea, salivation, lack of appetite and depression.	Veterinary care is recommended. Prognosis with prompt treatment is usually good.
HOSTA	Rare	✓	Signs of toxicity include vomiting, diarrhoea, and depression.	Veterinary treatment may be required for gastrointestinal problems.
HYACINTH (BULBS, LEAVES, FLOWERS)	✓	✓	Harmful if eaten in quantity. May cause a skin allergy.	Veterinary treatment may be required for gastrointestinal problems.
HYDRANGEA (ALL PARTS)	✓	✓	Hydrangeas contain cyanide and can cause vomiting, diarrhoea and depression.	Veterinary treatment may be required for gastrointestinal problems.
IRIS (BULBS)	✓	✓	Toxicity appears to be quite rare but signs of poisoning including salivation, vomiting, drooling, lethargy and diarrhoea.	Veterinary treatment may be required for gastrointestinal problems.
IVY (ALL SPECIES – LEAVES, BERRIES)	Rare	✓	Ivy leaves are an irritant to the mouth and skin and the plant also contains factors that can cause an allergic reaction when eaten. Dermatitis is a common sign your dog has eaten ivy along with vomiting, diarrhoea and abdominal pain.	Take to the vet immediately.
JAPANESE YEW (NEEDLES, SEEDS, BARK)	Rare	✓	The plant contains a mixture of toxins that can cause vomiting, diarrhoea, salivation, dilated pupils, lethargy, trembling and ataxia. Severe cases can progress to hypothermia, slow heart rate, respiratory depression, convulsions and coma.	Take to the vet immediately.
LABURNUM (LEAVES AND SEEDS)	✓	✓	Toxic if eaten. Can cause nausea and vomiting.	Signs of poisoning that are severe enough to require veterinary care are unlikely.
LARKSPUR (ALL PARTS)	✓	✓	Digestive upset, nervousness, depression. Cardiovascular system affected. May cause dermatitis.	Toxicity reduces as the plant grows and matures. Eating in high quantities is unlikely, but veterinary advice should be sought if this is suspected.

LILLIES (ALL PARTS)	✓	N/a	Signs usually present themselves within six hours, but if in doubt do not wait for them to develop! Signs start with drooling, vomiting, excessive thirst but progress rapidly to depression, collapse, and kidney failure and possible seizure.	Take to the vet immediately.
LIME	✓	✓	Vomiting, diarrhoea, depression; potential photosensitivity	Take to the vet immediately.
LILY OF THE VALLEY (ALL PARTS)	✓	✓	Toxic if eaten, causing nausea and vomiting. May cause skin allergy.	Severe illness is rare; most cases only require supportive treatment for skin irritation or gastrointestinal signs.
LEOPARD LILY	N/a	✓	Oral irritation, usually within two hours – progressing to drooling and possible vomiting and/or diarrhoea.	Treatment required only in severe cases.
LOBELIA	✓	✓	Toxicity appears to be quite rare but signs of poisoning including skin irritation, depression, diarrhoea, vomiting, excessive salivation, abdominal pain and heart rhythm disturbances have been reported.	Severe illness is rare; most cases only require supportive treatment for skin irritation or gastrointestinal signs.
LUPIN (ALL PARTS)	Rare	Rare	Vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain and mouth irritation.	Illness severe enough to require treatment is unlikely.
MALLOW	✓	✓	Toxicity reported but the pet would need to ingest large quantities for signs to develop.	Illness severe enough to require treatment is unlikely.
MARIGOLD (NEW LEAVES, STEMS)	✓	✓	New leaves and stems can cause skin irritation but ingestion is not thought to be a toxic risk.	Illness severe enough to require treatment is unlikely.
MISTLETOE	✓	✓	Vomiting, diarrhoea and weakness.	Veterinary treatment is required but prognosis is excellent.
MONKSHOOD/ACONITE (ROOTS, FOLIAGE, SEEDS)	✓	✓	Toxic if eaten. Can cause vomiting and may also affect cardiac function by increasing heart rate.	Theoretically one of the most poisonous plants in the garden... BUT the plant tastes so unpleasant that animals are likely to not eat. Take to the vet immediately if eaten.
MORNING GLORY (ALL PARTS)	✓	✓	Gastrointestinal upset, agitation, tremors, disorientation. Seeds may cause hallucinations and diarrhoea.	Symptoms can be quite severe. Take to the vet immediately.
NARCISSUS (ALL PARTS) (DAFFODIL)	✓	✓	Drooling, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, increased heart rate, abdominal pain, abnormal breathing.	Signs can be severe and prompt veterinary attention advised.
OAK - ACORNS (ALL PARTS)	✓	✓	Acorn poisoning can cause vomiting, diarrhoea, signalling gastroenteritis. Some animals may have seizures. Can also cause depression and kidney disease.	Toxicity is worse from immature acorn buds; 'dropped' acorns are much lower risk. Given the potential severity of toxicity, take to the vet immediately.
OLEANDER (ALL PARTS)	✓	✓	Poisonings usually occurs from fallen twigs. Abdominal pain and diarrhoea progressing to sweating, incoordination, shallow/difficult breathing and muscle tremors. In severe cases it can cause death.	Take to the vet immediately.
ONION (ALL PARTS)	✓	✓	Cats are more sensitive. Look out for vomiting, blood in urine, weakness, high heart rate and panting.	Toxic effects well documented and serious, but the strong smell of these plants is usually enough to deter pets from eating them. Most reported cases relate to ingestion of bulbs by dogs, and prompt veterinary treatment is advised.
PERIWINKLE (ALL PARTS)	✓	✓	Signs of toxicity including vomiting, diarrhoea, low blood pressure, depression, tremors, seizures, coma and death have been reported.	Take to the vet immediately.
PEONY (FOLIAGE, FLOWERS)	✓	✓	Vomiting, diarrhoea and depression.	Veterinary treatment may be required for gastrointestinal problems.

PHILODENDRON (LEAVES, STEMS, ROOTS)	✓	✓	Oral irritation, intense burning and irritation of the mouth, lips, tongue, excessive drooling, vomiting, difficulty in swallowing.	Veterinary treatment may be required to control oral pain or inflammation.
PINKS	✓	✓	Mild gastrointestinal signs, mild dermatitis	
POINSETTIA	✓		Mainly only reported in cats; usually just oral irritation from curious investigation of the plant	Oral irritation is short. Illness severe enough to require treatment is unlikely.
PRIMROSE (ALL PARTS)	✓	✓	Toxicity is reported but appears limited to only mild vomiting.	Cases are rarely severe enough to require veterinary intervention.
PRIVET	✓	✓	Generally mild to moderate affect due to the amount ingested. Watch out for vomiting, diarrhoea, loss of appetite and increased heart rate.	Ingestion of sufficient quantity to require veterinary attention is rare.
PRUNUS ROTUNDIFOLIA LAUREL	✓	✓	All parts are potentially very toxic to pets, including the fruit.	Toxicity in dogs and cats is possible but confirmed cases are rare – ingestion of sufficient quantity to pose a real threat appears unlikely.
POPPY (ALL PARTS)	✓	✓	If ingested in great quantities poppies can be toxic. There are also reports of poisoning following ingestion of dried poppies.	May require veterinary treatment in the unlikely event of a severe case.
POTATO (SPROUTS, VINES, UNRIPE TUBERS)	N/a	✓	Dogs can become poorly from eating green potatoes, showing signs of salivation, vomiting, and diarrhoea, lethargy and ataxia. Fatal cases have been reported but are rare. Large pieces of potato also pose a risk of physical obstruction of the gastrointestinal tract.	Ingestion of ripe potatoes is not a worry. If your pet has eaten green potatoes, however, it does pose a risk – although usually veterinary treatment to control gastrointestinal signs is sufficient.
PRIVET	✓	✓	Toxicity appears to be quite rare but signs of toxicity including gastrointestinal upset; incoordination and increased heart rate have been reported. Reports of deaths appear unsubstantiated.	Veterinary treatment is advised due to the reports of possible fatality.
RANUNCULUS (BUTTERCUP)			Vomiting, diarrhoea, depression and salivation.	Illness severe enough to require treatment is unlikely.
RAGWORT (ALL PARTS ABOVE GROUND)			The toxic components can cause kidney failure and liver damage.	The plant is toxic to most mammals but tastes very bad. Confirmed cases in dogs or cats are scarce.
RHODODENDRON (LEAVES)		✓	Vomiting, diarrhoea, hyper salivation, weakness, coma, hypotension, problems with central nervous system, cardiovascular collapse and death.	Cases are usually mild but veterinary attention is advised since severe toxicity and fatalities have been documented.
RHUBARB LEAVES	✓	✓	Kidney failure, tremors, salivation.	Toxicity documented in dogs but usually based on them eating foods prepared for human consumption that inadvertently contains plant leaves. Ingestion of live plant is a risk but they seem unpalatable, meaning it is unlikely your pet would eat enough for there to be a problem.
SNOWDROPS (ALL PARTS)	✓	✓	Drooling, vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhoea, incoordination, drop in blood pressure, seizures.	Cases of ingestion of snowdrop bulbs are reported but rarely is enough eaten to justify a trip to the vets.
SWEET PEA (ALL PARTS)	✓	✓	Toxicity appears to be quite rare but signs of poisoning including weakness, lethargy, tremors and seizures have been reported.	Veterinary advice is recommended.
SWEET WILLIAM	✓	✓	Mild gastrointestinal signs, mild dermatitis	It is unlikely your pet will eat enough to require a trip to the vets.

TOBACCO PLANT	✓	✓	Tobacco contains nicotine, which, if ingested in high quantities, can cause excitability then depression, vomiting, incoordination, paralysis –and even death.	In the unlikely event of clinical signs becoming evident, veterinary advice would be suggested.
TOMATO PLANT (FOLIAGE, VINES, GREEN FRUIT)	✓	✓	Plant ingestion can result in salivation and severe gastrointestinal upset, progressing to drowsiness, confusion, behavioral changes, weakness, dilated pupils and slow heart rate.	Can progress to a quite serious condition and so prompt veterinary attention is recommended.
TULIP (BULBS)	✓	✓	When the plant bulbs are ingested it can result in tissue irritation to the mouth and oesophagus. With larger ingestions, more severe symptoms such as an increase in heart rate, changes in respiration and difficulty breathing may be seen.	In most cases veterinary treatment is required but prognosis is good if attention is sought quickly.
VERBENA (FOLIAGE AND FLOWERS)	✓	✓	Vomiting, diarrhea, difficulty breathing, weakness.	Fears of toxicity in dogs and cats stem from livestock cases. Confirmed case reports are sparse.
WEeping FIG (INDIAN RUBBER)	✓	✓	Gasping, excitement, prostration.	Highly unpalatable. In the unlikely event of poisoning veterinary advice would be suggested.
WILD CHERRY TREE	✓	✓	Toxicity appears to be quite rare but signs of toxicity including nausea; prolonged vomiting, stomach pains and diarrhoea have been reported.	If signs develop, given that they can be prolonged, routine veterinary treatment is likely to be required.
WISTERIA (SEEDS AND PODS)	✓	✓	Toxicity appears to be quite rare but signs of toxicity including nausea; prolonged vomiting, stomach pains and diarrhoea have been reported.	If signs develop, given that they can be prolonged, routine veterinary treatment is likely to be required.
YARROW	✓	✓	Vomiting, diarrhoea, depression, anorexia, hyper salivation.	In most cases veterinary treatment is required but prognosis is good if attention is sought quickly.
YEW	✓	✓	The plant contains a mixture of toxins that can cause vomiting, diarrhoea, salivation, dilated pupils, lethargy, trembling and ataxia. Severe cases can progress to hypothermia; slow heart rate, dropping blood pressure, respiratory depression, arrhythmias, convulsions and coma.	Given the mixed toxins involved and the potential for serious illness, all cases should be treated by a vet immediately.
YUCCA	✓	✓	Vomiting and diarrhoea.	Most reports are from indoor cats consuming indoor yucca plants. Toxicity is mild and usually responds to basic veterinary care.

*Veterinary advice has been provided by vet, Robert White Adams who was also a consultant on The MORE TH>N Poisonous Pawtanical Garden.