

PRETTY AS A PICTURE?

What homeowner does not like to see a lovely garden for their own enjoyment and that of their visitors? You might be surprised to learn just how many plants in your garden are potentially dangerous to your family pet.

Poisonous Plants by Category

Note: This is not intended to be a complete list but covers most of the worst plants. If in doubt, always consult with your veterinarian.

- **Bulbs:** Amaryllis, Autumn Crocus (all – especially bulbs), Daffodil (all), Day Lily, Elephant Ears, Gladiolas, Hyacinth, Iris (corms), Jonquil (all), Lily of the Valley (all parts), Narcissus (all), Orange Day Lily, Tulip (bulbs)
- **Ferns:** Asparagus Fern, Australian Nut, Emerald Feather (aka Emerald Fern), Emerald Fern (aka Emerald Feather), Lace Fern, Plumosa Fern
- **Flowering Plants:** Cyclamen, Hydrangea, Kalanchoe, Poinsettia
- **Garden Perennials:** Black-Eyed Susan (all), Bleeding Heart (leaves, roots), Buttercup (all), Christmas Rose (root, leaves, sap), Cone Flower (all), Delphinium/Larkspur (all, seeds), Dieffenbachia (all parts), Flamingo Plant, Foxglove (leaves), Marijuana, Morning Glory (seeds), Nightshade (all), Onion, Rhubarb, Tomato Plant, Tropic Snow Dumbcane
- **House Plants:** Ceriman/Philodendron, Chinese Evergreen, Cordatum, Corn Plant (aka Cornstalk Plant), Devil's Ivy, Dumb Cane, Golden Pothos, Green Gold Nephthysis, Marble Queen, Mauna Loa Peace Lily, Nephthytis, Peace Lily, Red-Margined Dracaena, Striped Dracaena, Taro Vine, Warneckei Dracaena
- **Lilies:** Asian Lily (liliaceae), Easter Lily, Glory Lily, Japanese Show Lily, Red Lily, Rubrum Lily, Stargazer Lily, Tiger Lily, Wood Lily
- **Shrubs:** Azalea (all), Boxwood (leaves, twigs), Cycads, Heavenly Bamboo, Holly (berries), Jerusalem Cherry, Chokecherry (leaves, seeds, bark), Daphne (all; fruit), Mistletoe (berries), Mountain Laurel (all, even honey from flowers), Oleander (all including dried leaves), Precatory Bean, Privot (leaves, berries), Rhododendron (all parts), Sago Palm, Tree Philodendron, Wild Black Cherry (leaves, seeds, bark), Yucca
- **Succulents:** Aloe (Aloe Vera)
- **Trees/Fruit:** Apple (large amount of seeds), Apricot (seed), Almond (seed), Avocado (leaves), Black Locust (bark, twigs, seeds), Buddhist Pine, Chinaberry Tree (fruit, bark, berries), Golden Chain Tree (seeds, pods, flowers), Horse Chestnut (leaves, nuts, flowers, sprouts), Lacy Tree, Macadamia Nut, Madagascar Dragon Tree, Oaks (tannins in foliage and acorns), Queensland Nut, Schefflera, Yew (all, especially berries)
- **Vines:** Branching Ivy, English Ivy (berries, leaves), European Bittersweet, Glacier Ivy, Hahn's self branching English Ivy, Needlepoint Ivy, Yellow Jasmine
- **Miscellaneous/Uncategorized:** Amanita Mushrooms (all), American Bittersweet (berries, roots, leaves), Andromeda Japonica, Bird of Paradise, Buckeye (leaves, nuts, flowers, sprouts), Caladium (all parts), Calla Lily, Castor Bean (seed, leaves), Clematis, Deadly Nightshade (all), Dutchman's Breeches (leaves, stems, roots), Florida Beauty, Fruit Salad Plant, Gold Dust Dracaena, Hemlock (seeds, stems, fleshy taproot often mistaken for wild parsnip or anise), Hurricane Plant, Jack-in-the-Pulpit (all), Jumson Weed (all – very dangerous drug too often used by teens), Lantana (green berries, leaves), Mexican Breadfruit, Monkshood (all), Mother-in-law, Panda, Philodendron (all parts), Pokeweed (roots, shoots, leaves), Potatoes (all green parts), Red Emerald, Red Princess, Ribbon Plant, Rosary Pea, Satin Pothos, Spotted Dumb Cane, Sweetheart Ivy, Swiss Cheese Plant, Tobacco (leaves), White Snakeroot (all parts), Wisteria (pods, seeds), Yesterday/Today/Tomorrow

TOXIC FOODS

Plants are not the only things that are considered toxic and dangerous to your pet. If you have children in your household make them aware of these toxic foods so they won't accidentally give them to your pet.

Chocolate: Although many people are aware that chocolate is toxic to cats and dogs, it's something that is commonly left on a table or counter top. Dogs may tear into a box of candy when the opportunity presents itself. In large quantities, chocolate causes coma and death. In lesser quantities, it will cause gastrointestinal problems including [diarrhea](#). The degree of toxicity depends on the weight of the animal and the amount and type of chocolate consumed. Semi-sweet and bakers chocolate, for instance, contain more *theobromine* than regular chocolate, making them even more toxic to animals. Dogs love chocolate, so don't let taste be a test of what is healthy. Anything containing cocoa or chocolate should be avoided.

Grapes and Raisins: Though it isn't clear to scientists just what makes grapes and raisins toxic to both cats and dogs, even a relatively small amount can damage the kidneys. For this reason it's unwise to feed these to your pet, even if small amounts are tolerated. Also avoid giving bits of cookie or other foods that contain raisins.

Garlic, Onions, and Powders: Whether fresh, cooked or powdered, garlic and/or onions can be found among the ingredients of many prepared meals, including baby food. Garlic and onions are toxic to cats and dogs because sulfoxides and disulfides found in them can damage red blood cells and lead to [anemia](#). Onions are more problematic than garlic, but both should be avoided. If preparing a meal for yourself that will contain garlic or onions, consider preparing a side portion without these ingredients for your animals.

Macadamia Nuts: Macadamia nuts are soft, light-colored nuts often used in cookie recipes. They are considered toxic to dogs because they tend to cause gastrointestinal upsets, [lethargy](#), vomiting and muscle tremors or stiffness.

Mushrooms: Various species of mushrooms are toxic to dogs, and can cause shock and death. Effects will differ depending on the type ingested, but avoid feeding any type. Pluck "backyard mushrooms" that might sprout on the lawn, as these are known to be toxic to canines.

Tomatoes and Tomato Plants: Tomatoes of all kinds are toxic to cats, as are parts of the tomato plant. Ingesting as little as a cherry tomato can cause severe gastrointestinal upset.

Chicken Bones (cooked): Though not toxic, chicken bones can get stuck in the roof of the mouth, throat and intestines, and should be avoided, according to many veterinarians. Splinters of chicken bones can also become lodged internally.

Other Foods to avoid include [raw potatoes](#), especially those containing green spots; [turkey skin](#); [nutmeg](#); and anything with [caffeine](#), including tea. [Alcohol](#) and [hops](#) should also be avoided as alcohol poisoning can lead to coma and death. Do not allow your pet to rummage through the trash, as [moldy food](#) contains toxins that can cause serious illness