

# Plants that are potentially hazardous to your pet.

Plants cause a large number of toxicities in pets and can result in death.

In fact, In dogs, plants rank in the top 5 of common toxic exposures. It is difficult to give concise information about plant toxicities as there are hundreds of plants that are potentially poisonous to animals. However, actual reports of animals getting seriously ill from eating plants are relatively infrequent compared to reports of poisonings from household products or drugs.

Though some plants can cause serious illness or death, irritation of the mouth and gastrointestinal tract are the most common problems. Vomiting usually occurs soon after ingestion, which removes most of the plant from the system and reduces additional toxin absorption.

Springtime is often associated with bulb plants and ingestion of the bulbs causes the most severe illness. Summer is associated with plants. Here are some of the more common spring and summer holiday plants and information on their toxicity.

## Amaryllis

Common garden plants popular around Easter, Amaryllis species contain toxins that can cause vomiting, depression, diarrhea, abdominal pain, hypersalivation, anorexia and tremors.

More information & pictures can be found at

[www.vet.purdue.edu/depts/addl/toxic/plant49.htm](http://www.vet.purdue.edu/depts/addl/toxic/plant49.htm) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amaryllis>

## Autumn Crocus

Ingestion of *Colchicum autumnale* by pets can result in oral irritation, bloody vomiting, diarrhea, shock, multi-organ damage and bone marrow suppression.

More information & pictures can be found at

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colchicum\\_autumnale](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colchicum_autumnale)

## Azalea

Members of the *Rhododendron* spp. contain substances known as grayantoxins, which can produce vomiting, drooling, diarrhea, weakness and depression of the central nervous system in animals. Severe azalea poisoning could ultimately lead to coma and death from cardiovascular collapse.

More information & pictures can be found at

[www.vet.purdue.edu/depts/addl/toxic/plant10.htm](http://www.vet.purdue.edu/depts/addl/toxic/plant10.htm) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azalea>

## Brunfelsia

(*Brunfelsia americana*) Also known as "morning, noon and night", "lady of the night" and "yesterday, today and tomorrow." Dogs seem to be particularly attracted to the seeds and berries of the *Brunfelsia* plant, In fact, canines are most susceptible to poisoning by this gardener's favorite, aptly named for its fragrant flowers that bloom in vivid purple and gradually change to lavender before fading to white. "Brunfelsia toxicity can progress very rapidly to a potentially lethal situation, so it's critical that pet parents seek immediate veterinary care." "If pets consume any part of the plant, they can become ill within hours and develop gastrointestinal problems such as vomiting and diarrhea, as well as tremors, seizures and muscle rigidity that makes the animal appear to be in a 'sawhorse' stance." The most commonly affected breeds are Labradors and golden retrievers, who, because they are very active, may be more likely to get to the plant's seeds and leaves.

More information & pictures can be found at

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brunfelsia>

# Plants that are potentially hazardous to your pet.

## Castor Bean

The poisonous principle in *Ricinus communis* is ricin, a highly toxic protein that can produce severe abdominal pain, drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, excessive thirst, weakness and loss of appetite. Severe cases of poisoning can result in dehydration, muscle twitching, tremors, seizures, coma and death.

More information & pictures can be found at

[www.vet.purdue.edu/depts/addl/toxic/plant11.htm](http://www.vet.purdue.edu/depts/addl/toxic/plant11.htm) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Castor\\_Bean](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Castor_Bean)

## Chrysanthemum

These popular blooms are part of the Compositae family, which contain pyrethrins that may produce gastrointestinal upset, including drooling, vomiting and diarrhea, if eaten. In certain cases depression and loss of coordination may also develop if enough of any part of the plant is consumed.

More information & pictures can be found at

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chrysanthemum>

## Crown of Thorns

(*Euphorbia splendens prostrata*)- Ingestion results in vomiting and diarrhea.

More information & pictures can be found at

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euphorbia\\_milii](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euphorbia_milii)

## Cyclamen

Cyclamen species contain cyclamine, but the highest concentration of this toxic component is typically located in the root portion of the plant. If consumed, Cyclamen can produce significant gastrointestinal irritation, including intense vomiting. Fatalities have also been reported in some cases.

More information & pictures can be found at

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyclamen> [www.fernlea.com/xmas/cyclinfo.htm](http://www.fernlea.com/xmas/cyclinfo.htm)

## Easter cactus

(*Schlumbergera bridgesi*)- Ingestion can result in vomiting, diarrhea and depression. Cats can also develop staggering.

More information & pictures can be found at

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Easter\\_Cactus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Easter_Cactus)

## English Ivy

Also called branching ivy, glacier ivy, needlepoint ivy, sweetheart ivy and California ivy, *Hedera helix* contains triterpenoid saponins that, should pets ingest, can result in vomiting, abdominal pain, hypersalivation and diarrhea.

More information & pictures can be found at

[www.vet.purdue.edu/depts/addl/toxic/plant05.htm](http://www.vet.purdue.edu/depts/addl/toxic/plant05.htm) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English\\_Ivy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_Ivy)

## Hyacinth

(*Hyacinthus orientalis*)- Ingestion can result in intense vomiting, diarrhea, depression and tremors.

More information & pictures can be found at

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hyacinth\\_%28plant%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hyacinth_%28plant%29)

# Plants that are potentially hazardous to your pet.

## Kalanchoe

This plant contains components that can produce gastrointestinal irritation, as well as those that are toxic to the heart, and can seriously affect cardiac rhythm and rate.

More information & pictures can be found at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kalanchoe>

## Lilies

Members of the Liliaceae spp. are considered to be highly toxic to cats. While the poisonous component has not yet been identified, it is clear that with even ingestions of very small amounts of the plant, severe kidney damage could result.

More information & pictures can be found at [www.vet.purdue.edu/depts/addl/toxic/plant51.htm](http://www.vet.purdue.edu/depts/addl/toxic/plant51.htm)

## Marijuana

Ingestion of Cannabis sativa by companion animals can result in depression of the central nervous system and incoordination, as well as vomiting, diarrhea, drooling, increased heart rate, and even seizures and coma.

More information & pictures can be found at [www.vet.purdue.edu/depts/addl/toxic/plant35.htm](http://www.vet.purdue.edu/depts/addl/toxic/plant35.htm) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marijuana>

## Oleander

All parts of Nerium oleander are considered to be toxic, as they contain cardiac glycosides that have the potential to cause serious effects—including gastrointestinal tract irritation, abnormal heart function, hypothermia and even death.

More information & pictures can be found at [www.vet.purdue.edu/depts/addl/toxic/plant52.htm](http://www.vet.purdue.edu/depts/addl/toxic/plant52.htm) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oleander>

## Peace Lily (AKA Mauna Loa Peace Lily)

(Spathiphyllum spp) Spathiphyllum contains calcium oxalate crystals that can cause oral irritation (ulcers in the mouth), excessive drooling, vomiting, difficulty in swallowing and intense burning and irritation of the mouth, lips and tongue in pets who ingest.

More information & pictures can be found at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peace\\_Lily](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peace_Lily)

## Pothos

Pothos (both Scindapsus and Epipremnum) belongs to the Araceae family. If chewed or ingested, this popular household plant can cause significant mechanical irritation and swelling of the oral tissues and other parts of the gastrointestinal tract.

More information & pictures can be found at [www.vet.purdue.edu/depts/addl/toxic/plant03.htm](http://www.vet.purdue.edu/depts/addl/toxic/plant03.htm) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epipremnum\\_aureum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epipremnum_aureum)

## Rhododendron

(Rhododendron spp)- Members of the Rhododendron spp. contain substances known as grayantoxins, which can produce vomiting, drooling, diarrhea, weakness and depression of the central nervous system in animals. Severe azalea poisoning could ultimately lead to coma and death from cardiovascular collapse.

More information & pictures can be found at [www.vet.purdue.edu/depts/addl/toxic/plant10.htm](http://www.vet.purdue.edu/depts/addl/toxic/plant10.htm) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhododendron>

# Plants that are potentially hazardous to your pet.

## Sago Palm

All parts of *Cycas Revoluta* are poisonous, but the seeds or “nuts” contain the largest amount of toxin. The ingestion of just one or two seeds can result in very serious effects, which include vomiting, diarrhea, depression, seizures and liver failure.

More information & pictures can be found at

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sago\\_Palm](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sago_Palm) [www.sagopalms.com/](http://www.sagopalms.com/)

## Schefflera

*Schefflera* and *Brassaia actinophylla* contain calcium oxalate crystals that can cause oral irritation, excessive drooling, vomiting, difficulty in swallowing and intense burning and irritation of the mouth, lips and tongue in pets who ingest.

More information & pictures can be found at

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schefflera>

## Tulip/Narcissus bulbs

The bulb portions of *Tulipa/Narcissus* spp. contain toxins that can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation, drooling, loss of appetite, depression of the central nervous system, convulsions and cardiac abnormalities.

More information & pictures can be found at

[www.vet.purdue.edu/depts/addl/toxic/plant04.htm](http://www.vet.purdue.edu/depts/addl/toxic/plant04.htm)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narcissus\\_%28genus%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narcissus_%28genus%29)

## Yew

*Taxus* spp. contains a toxic component known as taxine, which causes central nervous system effects such as trembling, incoordination, and difficulty breathing. It can also cause significant gastrointestinal irritation and cardiac failure, which can result in death.

More information & pictures can be found at

[www.vet.purdue.edu/depts/addl/toxic/plant49.htm](http://www.vet.purdue.edu/depts/addl/toxic/plant49.htm) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yew>

**Other Plants that are considered very toxic and can result in severe illness or even death include:**

## American Bittersweet

(*Celastrus scandens*)- Weakness, convulsions, gastroenteritis (vomiting, diarrhea.)

More information & pictures can be found at

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Staff\\_vine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Staff_vine)

## Clematis

(*Clematis* sp.)- Vomiting, diarrhea, oral ulcers, ataxia irritant or vesicant action.

More information & pictures can be found at

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clematis>

## Crocus

(*Colchicum autumnale*)- Excessive salivation, abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting, gastrointestinal disorders, lack of appetite, tremors, convulsions, seizures

More information & pictures can be found at

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crocus>

# Plants that are potentially hazardous to your pet.

## Daffodil

(Narcissus spp)- Severe gastrointestinal disorders, convulsions, shivering, hypotension, dermatitis, muscular tremors, and cardiac arrhythmias.

More information & pictures can be found at

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daffodil>

## Day lily

(Hemerocallis dumortirei)- Vomiting, inappetence, lethargy, kidney failure. Cats are only species known to be affected.

More information & pictures can be found at

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Day\\_lily](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Day_lily)

## Easter Lily

(Lilium longiflorum)- Vomiting, inappetence, lethargy, and kidney failure. Cats are only species known to be affected.

More information & pictures can be found at

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Easter\\_lily](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Easter_lily)

## Foxglove

(Digitalis purpurea)- Cardiac arrhythmias, vomiting, diarrhea, weakness, cardiac failure, death.

More information & pictures can be found at

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foxglove>

## Lily of the Valley

(Convallaria majalis)- Ataxia, vomiting, cardiac arrhythmias, death.

More information & pictures can be found at

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lily\\_of\\_the\\_Valley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lily_of_the_Valley)

## Morning Glory

(Ipomoea spp)- Seeds may cause hallucination, may cause diarrhea.

More information & pictures can be found at

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ipomoea>

## Narcissus

(Narcissus spp) Severe gastrointestinal disorders, convulsions, shivering, hypotension, dermatitis, muscular tremors, and cardiac arrhythmias.

More information & pictures can be found at

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narcissus\\_%28genus%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narcissus_%28genus%29)

## Tiger Lily

(Lilium tigrinum)- Vomiting, inappetence, lethargy, kidney failure. Cats are only species known to be affected.

More information & pictures can be found at

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lilium\\_columbianum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lilium_columbianum)