

POISONOUS PLANTS AND PETS

Many homes grow houseplants, landscape and garden plants to add beauty, interest and food. Lovely as they may be, some of these plants may present a hazard especially if pets share the household.

If you think that your animal is ill or may have ingested a poisonous substance, contact your local veterinarian or the ASPCA 24-hour emergency poison hotline directly at 1-888-426-4435.

There is, of course, no better cure than prevention. If you aren't willing to part with some of your plants, at least place them out of the animal's reach, limit the animal's access to areas outside where poisonous plants exist or let them out only under supervision.

Below is a list of some common plants that may cause irritation, illness or death if they are ingested by pets. This list contains plants that have been reported as having systemic effects on animals and/or intense effects on the gastrointestinal tract. Please note that the information contained in our plant list is not meant to be all-inclusive, but rather a compilation of the most frequently encountered plants.

Plant Name	Toxic Portion(s)	Plant Type
Apricot (Group also includes Plum, Peach, Cherry) Scientific Names: <i>Prunus armeniaca</i> Family: <i>Rosaceae</i>	Seeds, pits	tree
Azalea (Rosebay, Rhododendron) Scientific Names: <i>Rhododendron</i> spp Family: <i>Ericaceae</i>	Entire	cultivated shrub
Black Locust (falsa acacia, robinia) Scientific Name: <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> Family: <i>Fabaceae</i>	Bark, leaves, seeds	tree
Black Walnut (DOG) Scientific Names: <i>Juglans nigra</i> Family: <i>Juglandaceae</i>	Green shells	tree
Boxwood () Scientific Name: <i>Buxus</i> spp. Family: <i>Buxaceae</i>	Bark, leaves	ornamental shrub

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Plant Name	Toxic Portion(s)	Plant Type
Branching Ivy (English Ivy, Glacier Ivy, Needlepoint Ivy, Sweetheart Ivy, California Ivy) Scientific Names: <i>Hedera helix</i> Family: <i>Araliaceae</i>	Leaves	vine
Buckeye (Horsechestnut) Scientific Name: <i>aesculus hippocastanum</i> Family: <i>Sapindaceae</i>	Sprouts, nuts, seeds	tree
Buttercup (Butter Cress, Figwort) Scientific Names: <i>Ranunculus</i> spp. Family: <i>Ranunculaceae</i>	Leaves	wildflower, herb
Caladium (Elephant's Ears, Mother-in-law Plant) Scientific Names: <i>Caladium hortulanum</i> Family: <i>Araceae</i>	Entire Plant	house plant
Castor Bean Plant (Castor Oil Plant, African Wonder Tree, Castor Bean) Scientific Names: <i>Ricinus communis</i> Family: <i>Euphorbiaceae</i>	Entire Plant	house plant
Ceriman (Cutleaf Philodendron, Hurricane Plant, Swiss Cheese Plant, Mexican Breadfruit) Scientific Names: <i>Monstera deliciosa</i> Family: <i>Araceae</i>	Entire Plant	house plant
Cordatum (Fiddle-Leaf, Horsehead Philodendron, Heartleaf Philodendron, Panda Plant, Split Leaf Philodendron) Scientific Names: <i>Philodendron oxycardium</i> Family: <i>Araceae</i>	Entire Plant	house plant
Cowbane (Water Hemlock, Poison Parsnip) Scientific Names: <i>Cicuta</i> spp Family: <i>Apiaceae</i>	entire plant esp. roots	wildflower, herb
Crocus () Scientific Names: <i>Crocus</i> L. Family: <i>Iridaceae</i>	Entire Plant	garden flower
Daphne () Scientific Names: <i>Daphne</i> L. Family: <i>Thymelaeaceae</i>	Bark, leaves, flowers	ornamental shrub
Dieffenbachia (dumb cane) Scientific Names: <i>Dieffenbachia</i> Family: <i>Araceae</i>	Entire Plant	house plant

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English Holly (European Holly, Oregon Holly, Inkberry, Winterberry, American Holly) Scientific Names: <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> Family: <i>Aquifoliaceae</i>	Berry	shrub
Foxglove () Scientific Names: <i>Digitalis purpurea</i> Family: <i>Scrophalariaceae</i>	Leaves	garden flower
Garden Hyacinth (Hyacinth) Scientific Names: <i>Hyacinthus orientalis</i> Family: <i>Liliaceae</i>	Entire Plant	wild and house plant
Hills of Snow (Hydrangea, Hortensia, Seven Bark) Scientific Names: <i>Hydrangea arborescens</i> Family: <i>Hydrangeaceae</i>	Entire Plant	shrub
Jerusalem Cherry (Natal cherry, Winter cherry) Scientific Names: <i>Solanum pseudocapsicum</i> Family: <i>Solanaceae</i>	Entire Plant	ornamental shrub
Jimsonweed (Thorn Apple) Scientific Names: <i>Datura stramonium</i> Family: <i>Solanaceae</i>	Entire Plant	Forb/herb, Subshrub
Larkspur (Delphinium) Scientific Names: <i>Delphinium species</i> Family: <i>Ranunculaceae</i>	Leaves, seeds, young plants	wildflower
Lily of the Valley () Scientific Names: <i>Convallaria majalis</i> Family: <i>Liliaceae</i>	Leaves, flowers	garden and wildflower
Marijuana (Indian Hemp, Hashish) Scientific Names: <i>Cannabis sativa</i> Family: <i>Cannabaceae</i>	Entire plant	plant
Monkshood Scientific Names: <i>Aconitum L</i> Family: <i>Ranunculaceae</i>	Entire plant esp. roots, seeds	wildflower
Morning Glory () Scientific Names: <i>Ipomoea spp</i> Family: <i>Convolvulaceae</i>	seeds, roots	wildflower
Narcissus (Daffodil, Jonquil, Paper White) Scientific Names: <i>Narcissus spp</i> Family: <i>Amaryllidaceae</i>	Bulbs	garden flower

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Nightshade (Deadly Nightshade, Black Nightshade) Scientific Names: <i>Solanum</i> spp Family: <i>Solanaceae</i>	Entire Plant	wildflower, vine
Poinsettia () Scientific Names: <i>Euphorbia pulcherrima</i> Family: <i>Euphorbiaceae</i>	Entire Plant	House plant
Potato (Tber, Spud) Scientific Names: <i>Solanum tuberosum</i> Family: <i>Solanaceae</i>	Ripe and unripe tubers, sprouts	garden plant
Rhododendron () Scientific Names: <i>Rhododendron</i> spp Family: <i>Ericaceae</i>	Entire Plant	ornamental shrub
Rhubarb () Scientific Names: <i>Rheum rhabarbarium</i> Family: <i>Polygonaceae</i>	Leaves	garden plant
Wisteria () Scientific Names: <i>Wisteria</i> spp. Family: <i>Fabaceae</i>	Entire Plant	ornamental plant
Yew (Canada Yew, Canadian Yew) Scientific Names: <i>Taxus canadensis</i> Family: <i>Taxaceae</i>	Entire Plant	ornamental tree

Here are some ways of reducing exposure to plant toxins:

- Keep plants out of reach or in rooms where pets are not allowed.
- Maintain plants regularly and keep debris cleaned up.
- Label pots with the plant name and whether it is toxic.
- Don't discard plant clippings where they can be easily accessed.
- Trim plants to prevent pets from accessing vines. The plants will still reward you with fullness and foliage that purifies the air.
- Don't forget that plants summering outside can be dangerous to outdoor pets. Hang them high on porches or plant-stands.
- Always keep fresh water for pets so that they aren't tempted to drink from plant trays. Toxins can leach into the water.
- To keep cats from accessing plants that are out of reach of dogs, try using hanging bird cages to hold the pots. Cages provide extra protection for the plants and a bit of visual interest to the room.

Additional references:

Common Poisonous Plants: www.animalag.wsu.edu/forages/Kerr-PoisonousPlants1007-2005.pdf

Common Poisonous Plants: <https://ecommons.cornell.edu/handle/1813/3497>

ASPCA: www.aspc.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants