

# Poisonous Plants to Pets

## **Azalea/Rhododendron**

Not only toxic to cats and dogs, this popular garden staple is also dangerous for horses, goats and sheep—and ingestion of just a few leaves can cause serious problems.

- Symptoms: Acute digestive upset, excessive drooling, loss of appetite, frequent bowel movements/diarrhea, colic, depression, weakness, loss of coordination, stupor, leg paralysis, weak heart rate and recumbency for 2 or more days; at this point, improvement may be seen or the animal may become comatose and die.

## **Baby's Breath**

This sweet filler of many a floral arrangement seems innocent enough, but not so innocuous when it comes to your pet's digestion.

- Symptoms: Vomiting, diarrhea.

## **Begonia**

This popular garden and container plant is toxic to both dogs and cats. The tubers are the most toxic part.

- Symptoms: Oral irritation, intense burning and irritation of mouth, tongue and lips, excessive drooling, vomiting, difficulty swallowing.

## **Carnations**

The carnation isn't the most poisonous of the bunch, but its ubiquity in floral arrangements makes it one to keep your eye out for.

- Symptoms: Mild gastrointestinal signs, mild dermatitis.

## **Castor Bean**

Not in everyone's garden or bouquet, but castor bean plant is a popular landscaping plant used in many parks and public spaces. Watch out for it on those dog walks.

- Symptoms: 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.

## **Chrysanthemum**

The smell of chrysanthemum is enough to keep me away, but dogs and cats may still be drawn to it. It's not likely to cause death, but it is a popular plant and can cause quite a bit of discomfort. In certain cases, depression and loss of coordination may also develop if enough of any part of the plant is consumed.

- Symptoms: Vomiting, diarrhea, hypersalivation, dermatitis.

## **Cyclamen**

These pretty flowers are popular in the garden and in pots—and they are toxic to both cats and dogs. The highest concentration of the toxic component is typically located in the root portion of the plant.

- Symptoms: gastrointestinal irritation, including intense vomiting. Fatalities have also been reported in some cases.

## **Daffodil**

Most people aren't going to let their pet chow down on pretty daffodils, but who knows what may happen when you turn your back. These harbingers of spring are toxic to cats and dogs; the bulbs being the most toxic part.

- Symptoms: Vomiting, salivation, diarrhea; large ingestions cause convulsions, low blood pressure, tremors and cardiac arrhythmias.

### **Gladiola**

Although gladiolus are great in the garden, they are more popularly used in floral arrangements—since it is the corm (bulb) that is most toxic to dogs and cats it may not present much of a problem, but still...

- Symptoms: Salivation, vomiting, drooling, lethargy, diarrhea.

### **Hosta**

If you have shade in your yard, I'm guessing you have a host of hostas. I've seen many hostas unbothered by dogs and cats, but the plant is toxic to both—so make sure your pet doesn't have a taste for them.

- Symptoms: Vomiting, diarrhea, depression.

### **Ivy (California, Branching, Glacier, Needlepoint, Sweetheart, English Ivy)**

Ivy foliage is more toxic than its berries.

- Symptoms: Vomiting, abdominal pain, hypersalivation, diarrhea

### **Lilies**

Members of the Liliaceae family are considered to be highly toxic to cats, even when very small portions are ingested. Many types of lily (Tiger, Asian, Japanese Show, Easter, Stargazer, Casa Blanca) can cause kidney failure in cats. Curiously, lilies are not toxic to dogs.

- Symptoms: Kidney failure.

### **Milkweed**

It's quite toxic to dogs and cats.

- Symptoms: Vomiting, profound depression, weakness, anorexia, and diarrhea are common; may be followed by seizures, difficulty breathing, rapid, weak pulse, dilated pupils, kidney or liver failure, coma, respiratory paralysis and death.

### **Morning Glory**

It somehow doesn't surprise me that morning glory can cause hallucinations—and although cats on catnip are cute, cats and dogs experiencing rubber reality—not so much.

- Symptoms: Gastrointestinal upset, agitation, tremors, disorientation, ataxia, anorexia, hallucinations.

### **Oleander**

Oleander is pretty, and poisonous—but it can severely affect cats, dogs, and even horses. All parts contain a highly toxic cardiac glycoside (much like digitoxin) and can cause a number of problems.

- Symptoms: Colic, diarrhea (possibly bloody), sweating, incoordination, shallow/difficult breathing, muscle tremors, recumbency, and possibly death from cardiac failure.

### **Poinsettia**

"Beware the poinsettia," pet-owners have been told ad nauseam. They are totally over-rated in toxicity! The ubiquitous holiday decoration may cause discomfort, but not the alarming panic that has been described.

- Symptoms: Irritating to the mouth and stomach, sometimes causing mild vomiting.

### **Pothos**

Not the most toxic plant on the list, but it's such a popular houseplant that it should be noted that cats and dogs can both have adverse reactions to chewing or ingesting it.

- Symptoms: Oral irritation, intense burning and irritation of mouth, tongue and lips, excessive drooling, vomiting, difficulty swallowing.

### **Sago Palm**

If you live in a temperate region, chances are that you have sago palms around. They are a very popular landscaping plant, and also do double duty as a popular bonsai choice. They are apparently very tasty to animals, and unfortunately highly toxic—all parts are poisonous, but especially the seeds.

- Symptoms: Vomiting, melena, icterus, increased thirst, hemorrhagic gastroenteritis, bruising, coagulopathy, liver damage, liver failure, death

### **Tomato Plant**

Although it won't prove lethal for your pet, they can provide a good dose of discomfort.

- Symptoms: Hypersalivation, inappetence, severe gastrointestinal upset, diarrhea, drowsiness, CNS depression, confusion, behavioral change, weakness, dilated pupils, slow heart rate.

### **Tulip/Narcissus**

It's the bulb of the tulip and narcissus plants that have the highest concentration of toxins. This means: if you have a dog that digs, be cautious. Or, if you are forcing bulbs indoors, make sure that they are out of reach.

- Symptoms: Intense gastrointestinal irritation, drooling, loss of appetite, depression of the central nervous system, convulsions and cardiac abnormalities.

### **Yew**

The bark and leaves of this very popular evergreen provided the basis for the cancer-treatment drug, paclitaxel—but general ingestion of any part of the tree (except the flesh of the berry) can be very dangerous to animals. Horses have an especially low tolerance to yew.

- Symptoms: Central nervous system effects such as trembling, uncoordination, and difficulty breathing. It can also cause significant gastrointestinal irritation and cardiac failure, which can result in death