

What houseplants are poisonous to my cat?

71 Common Plants that are Poisonous to Cats

Cats can be very sensitive to certain kinds of plants and, in some cases, just a small nibble can cause big problems. If you have a cat, it's important to make sure you keep potentially harmful plants like these away from your whiskered friend.



Amaryllis

Additional Common Names: Many, including: Belladonna lily, Saint Joseph lily, Cape Belladonna, Naked Lady

Clinical Signs: Vomiting, depression, diarrhea, abdominal pain, excessive production of saliva, anorexia, tremors.



Aloe Vera

Clinical Signs: Vomiting, lethargy, diarrhea.



Arum Lily

Additional Common Names: Calla Lily, Pig Lily, White Arum, Trumpet Lily, Florist's Calla, Garden Calla

Clinical Signs: Oral irritation, pain and swelling of mouth, tongue and lips, excessive drooling, vomiting, difficulty swallowing



Asian Lily

All flowers in the Lily family are poisonous to cats

Additional Common Names: Asiatic Lily,

Clinical Signs: Vomiting, lack of appetite, lethargy, kidney failure, death



Autumn Crocus

Additional Common Names: Meadow Saffron

Clinical Signs: Bloody vomiting, diarrhea, shock, multi-organ damage, bone marrow suppression



Azalea – Avoid bringing a bunch of these beautiful flowers inside your home

Additional Common Names: Rosebay, Rhododendron,

Clinical Signs: Vomiting (not in horses), diarrhea, weakness, cardiac failure



Baby's Breath

Additional Common Names: Maidens Breath

Clinical Signs: Mild GI upset such as vomiting, and diarrhea may be seen if ingested.



Barbados Lily

All flowers in the Lily family are poisonous to cats

Additional Common Names: Amaryllis, Fire Lily, Lily of the Palace, Ridderstjerne

Clinical Signs: Vomiting, salivation, diarrhea; large ingestions cause convulsions, low blood pressure, tremors, cardiac arrhythmias, kidney failure, death. Bulbs are the most poisonous part.



Bay Laurel

Additional Common Names: Sweet Bag, Bay Tree, Tree Laurel, Laurel Tree, Laurel,

Clinical Signs: Vomiting and diarrhea, large ingestion of whole leaves can cause obstruction



Bird of Paradise Flower

Additional Common Names: Crane Flower, Bird's Tongue Flower

Clinical Signs: Mild nausea, vomiting, drowsiness; caused mainly by fruit and seeds



Bishop's Weed

Additional Common Names: Greater Ammi, False Queen Anne's Lace

Clinical Signs: Photosensitization (sunburn, irritation of the skin)



Branching Ivy - Foliage is more toxic than berries

Additional Common Names: English Ivy, Glacier Ivy, Needlepoint Ivy, Sweetheart Ivy, California Ivy

Clinical Signs: Vomiting, abdominal pain, excessive production of saliva, diarrhea.



Buttercup

Additional Common Names: Butter Cress, Figwort

Clinical Signs: Vomiting, diarrhea, depression, anorexia, excessive production of saliva, oral ulcers and wobbly gait.



Butterfly Iris

Additional Common Names: Spuria Iris

Clinical Signs: Salivation, vomiting, drooling, lethargy, diarrhea.



Caladium

Additional Common Names: Malanga, Elephant's Ears, Stoplight, Seagull, Mother-in-law Plant, Pink Cloud, Texas Wonder, Angel-Wings, Exposition, Candidum, Fancy-leaved Caladium

Clinical Signs: Oral irritation, pain and swelling of mouth, tongue and lips, excessive drooling, vomiting, difficulty swallowing



Calla Lily

All flowers in the Lily family are poisonous to cats

Additional Common Names: Calla Lily, Pig Lily, White Arum, Trumpet Lily, Florist's Calla, Garden Calla, Arum Lily

Clinical Signs: Oral irritation, intense burning and irritation of mouth, tongue and lips, excessive drooling, vomiting, difficulty swallowing, kidney failure, death



Carnation

Additional Common Names: Pinks, Wild Carnation, Sweet William

Clinical Signs: Mild gastrointestinal signs, mild irritation of the skin



Chamomile

Additional Common Names: Manzanilla, Garden Chamomile, Roman Chamomile, True Chamomile, Corn Feverfew, Barnyard Daisy, Ground-apple, Turkey-weed

Clinical Signs: Contact irritation of the skin, vomiting, diarrhea, anorexia, allergic reactions. Long-term use can lead to bleeding tendencies



Chinese Evergreen

Clinical Signs: Oral irritation, pain and swelling of mouth, tongue and lips, excessive drooling, vomiting, difficulty swallowing



Chives

Clinical Signs: Vomiting, breakdown of red blood cells (hemolytic anemia, Heinz body anemia), blood in urine, weakness, high heart rate, panting.



Chrysanthemum

Additional Common Names: Daisy, Mum (many varieties)

Clinical Signs: Vomiting, diarrhea, excessive production of saliva, lack of coordination, inflammation of the skin



Clematis

Additional Common Names: Virgin's Bower, Leatherflower

Clinical Signs: Salivation, vomiting, diarrhea.



Coleus

Additional Common Names: Rex Begonia, Indian Borage, Bread and Butter Plant, Spanish Thyme, East Indian Thyme, Stinging Thyme, Country Boarage; many others

Clinical Signs: Vomiting, diarrhea, depression, anorexia, occasionally bloody diarrhea or vomiting



Cordatium

Additional Common Names: Pothos, Fiddle-Leaf, Horsehead Philodendron, Heartleaf Philodendron, Panda Plant, Split Leaf Philodendron, Fruit Salad Plant, Red Emerald, Red Princess, Saddle Leaf

Clinical Signs: Oral irritation, pain and swelling of mouth, tongue and lips, excessive drooling, vomiting, difficulty swallowing



Cowbane

Additional Common Names: Water Hemlock, Poison Parsnip

Clinical Signs: Diarrhea, seizures, tremors, extreme stomach pain, dilated pupils, fever, bloat, respiratory depression, and death



Daffodil

Additional Common Names: Narcissus, Jonquil, Paper White

Clinical Signs: Vomiting, salivation, diarrhea; large ingestions cause convulsions, low blood pressure, tremors and cardiac arrhythmias. Bulbs are the most poisonous part.



Dahlia

Clinical Signs: Mild gastrointestinal signs, mild inflammation of the skin



Daisy

Additional Common Names: Chrysanthemum, Mum

Clinical Signs: Vomiting, diarrhea, excessive production of saliva, lack of coordination, inflammation of the skin



Dieffenbachia

Additional Common Names: Charming Dieffenbachia, Giant Dumb Cane, Tropic Snow, Dumbcane, Exotica, Spotted Dumb Cane, Exotica Perfection

Clinical Signs: Oral irritation, intense burning and irritation of mouth, tongue and lips, excessive drooling, vomiting, difficulty swallowing



Dracaena

Common Names: Female Dragon, Corn Plant, Cornstalk Plant, Dragon Tree, Ribbon Plant

Clinical Signs: Vomiting (occasionally with blood), depression, anorexia, excessive production of saliva, dilated pupils (cats).



Dumbcane

Additional Common Names: Charming Dieffenbachia, Giant Dumb Cane, Tropic Snow, Exotica, Spotted Dumb Cane, Exotica Perfection, Dieffenbachia

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



Elephant Ears

Additional Common Names: Caladium, Taro, Pai, Ape, Cape, Via, Via sori, Malanga

Clinical Signs: Oral irritation, intense burning and irritation of the mouth, lips, tongue, excessive drooling, vomiting, difficulty in swallowing.



Eucalyptus

Clinical Signs: Salivation, vomiting, diarrhea, depression, weakness



Ficus

Clinical Signs: Chewing these plants may cause pain and irritation of the mouth, lips, and tongue. Swelling of the throat may cause breathing difficulties.

Minor toxicity: Ingestion may cause some minor symptoms such as vomiting or diarrhea.



Fig

Additional Common Names: Weeping Fig, Indian Rubber Plant

Clinical Signs: Gastrointestinal and skin irritation



Gardenia

Additional Common Names: Cape Jasmine

Clinical Signs: Mild vomiting and/or diarrhea, hives.



Garlic

Additional Common Names: Stinking Rose, Rustic Treacle, Camphor of the Poor, Nectar of the Gods, Serpent Garlic, Rocambole

Clinical Signs: Vomiting, breakdown of red blood cells (hemolytic anemia, Heinz body anemia), blood in urine, weakness, high heart rate, panting



Geranium

Clinical Signs: Vomiting, anorexia, depression, inflammation of the skin



Gladiolas

Clinical Signs: Salivation, vomiting, drooling, lethargy, diarrhea. Highest concentration in corms (bulbs).



Honeysuckle

These flowers have a sweet smell that can be very tempting for cats.

Clinical Signs: Ingesting honeysuckle wood or flowers may also cause gastrointestinal upset and the wood can cause choking or damage to the delicate tissues of the mouth.



Hosta

Additional Common Names: Plantain Lily, Funkia

Clinical Signs: Vomiting, diarrhea, depression



Hyacinth

Additional Common Names: Garden Hyacinth

Clinical Signs: Vomiting, diarrhea, irritation of the skin and allergic reactions. Bulbs contain highest amount of toxin.



Hydrangea

Additional Common Names: Hortensia, Hills of Snow, Seven Bark

Clinical Signs: Vomiting, depression, diarrhea. Cyanide intoxication is rare - usually produces more of a gastrointestinal disturbance.



Iris

Additional Common Names: Flag, Snake Lily, Water Flag

Clinical Signs: Salivation, vomiting, drooling, lethargy, diarrhea.



Jade Plant

Additional Common Names: Baby Jade, Dwarf rubber plant, Jade tree, Chinese rubber plant, Japanese rubber plant

Clinical Signs: Vomiting, depression, lack of coordination



Kalanchoe

Additional Common Names: Mother-In-Law-Plant, Devils Backbone, Chandelier Plant, Mother of Millions

Clinical Signs: Vomiting, diarrhea, abnormal heart rhythm



Lilies (all *Lilium* species, such as Easter Lilies)

All flowers in the Lily family are poisonous to cats

Clinical Signs: kidney failure, vomiting, lack of appetite, lethargy, death



Lily of the Valley

All flowers in the Lily family are poisonous to cats

Clinical Signs: Vomiting, irregular heart beat, low blood pressure, disorientation, coma, seizures, kidney failure, death



Marijuana

Additional Common Names: Indian Hemp, Hashish

Clinical Signs: Prolonged depression, vomiting, lack of coordination, sleepiness or excitation, hypersalivation, dilated pupils, low blood pressure, low body temperature, seizure, coma, death (rare)



Mint

Additional Common Names: Garden Mint

Clinical Signs: Vomiting and diarrhea with large ingestions



Morning Glory

Clinical Signs: Vomiting, large amounts of seeds may cause hallucinations



Mum

Additional Common Names: Chrysanthemum, Daisy

Clinical Signs: Vomiting, diarrhea, excessive production of saliva, lack of coordination, inflammation of the skin



Oleander

Additional Common Names: Rose-Bay

Clinical Signs: Drooling, abdominal pain, diarrhea, colic, depression, death



Oregano Fresh and Dried

Additional Common Names: Greek Oregano

Clinical Signs: Mild vomiting and diarrhea



Paper White

Additional Common Names: Daffodil, Jonquil, Narcissus

Clinical Signs: Vomiting, salivation, diarrhea; large ingestions cause convulsions, low blood pressure, tremors and cardiac arrhythmias. Bulbs are the most poisonous part.



Parsley

Additional Common Names: Italian Parsley, Hamburg Parsley, Turnip-rooted

Clinical Signs: Photosensitization (sunburn, inflammation of the skin), large amounts are needed to cause this effect



Peace Lily

All flowers in the Lily family are poisonous to cats

Additional Common Names: Mauna Loa Peace Lily

Clinical Signs: Oral irritation, intense burning and irritation of mouth, tongue and lips, excessive drooling, vomiting, difficulty swallowing, kidney failure, death



Peony

Clinical Signs: Vomiting, diarrhea, depression



Periwinkle

Additional Common Names: Running Myrtle, Vinca

Clinical Signs: Vomiting, diarrhea, low blood pressure, depression, tremors, seizures, coma, death.



Philodendron

Additional Common Names: Cordatum, Pothos, Leaf Philodendron

Clinical Signs: Oral irritation, pain and swelling of mouth, tongue and lips, excessive drooling, vomiting difficulty swallowing



Poinsettia

Clinical Signs: Irritating to the mouth and stomach, sometimes causing vomiting, but generally over-rated in toxicity.



Primrose

Clinical Signs: Mild vomiting



Rex Begonia

Additional Common Names: Coleus

Clinical Signs: Vomiting, diarrhea, depression, anorexia, occasionally bloody diarrhea or vomiting



Rhododendron All Colors

Additional Common Names: Rosebay, Azalea

Clinical Signs: Vomiting, diarrhea, excessive production of saliva, weakness, coma, hypotension, Central Nervous System (CNS) depression, cardiovascular collapse and death. Ingestion of a few leaves can cause serious problems.



Saddle Leaf

Additional Common Names: Horsehead Philodendron, Cordatum, Heartleaf Philodendron, Panda Plant, Split Leaf Philodendron, Fruit Salad Plant, Red Emerald, Red Princess, Fiddle Leaf

Clinical Signs: Oral irritation, intense burning and irritation, pain and swelling of mouth, tongue and lips, excessive drooling, vomiting, difficulty swallowing.



Sago Palm

Additional Common Names: Coontie Palm, Cardboard Palm

Clinical Signs: Vomiting, dark sticky feces containing partly digested blood, yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes, increased thirst, hemorrhagic gastroenteritis, bruising, excessive bleeding, liver damage, liver failure, death.



Snake Plant

Additional Common Names: Golden Bird's Nest, Mother-in-Law's Tongue, Good Luck Plant

Clinical Signs: Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea.



Taro

Additional Common Names: Caladium, Elephant Ears, Pai, Ape, Cape, Via, Via sori, Malanga

Clinical Signs: Oral irritation, intense burning and irritation of the mouth, lips, tongue, excessive drooling, vomiting, difficulty in swallowing.



Tarragon

Additional Common Names: French Tarragon, Estragon

Clinical Signs: Mild vomiting and diarrhea



Tulip

These are lovely in the spring, but very harmful to your cat

Clinical Signs: Vomiting, depression, diarrhea, excessive production of saliva. Highest concentration of toxin in bulb



Wandering Jew

Additional Common Names: Speedy Henry, Wandering Jew

Clinical Signs: Inflammation of the skin



Wisteria

Clinical Signs: Vomiting (sometimes with blood), diarrhea, depression

This list is not comprehensive by any means.

You can find a more extensive list

of plants that are toxic to cats posted on the

ASPCA® Animal Poison Control Center website,

<https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants>.

You can also call the

ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center Phone Number: (888) 426-4435

If your cat is experiencing any of the aforementioned clinical signs,

CALL YOUR VETERINARIAN IMMEDIATELY

FOR LIFE SAVING MEDICAL ATTENTION.

If possible, when you bring your cat to your veterinarian for medical attention,

bring a piece of the plant that you suspect your cat has eaten.



Contact me, Suanne Connolly, LVT to learn more
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