

Spring Time Hazards

Plants that are TOXIC to Pets

Many of us have houseplants as well as trees and shrubs in our yards. Some of these seemingly harmless plants can make our pets sick or even kill them if they eat the wrong parts. Below is a list of some possibly toxic plants and trees.

- **Almond** – Diarrhea, vomiting and abdominal pain.
- **Apple** – Leaves and stems can lead to shock, mouth inflammation, and a rapid increase in breathing.
- **Apricot** – Stem, bark and seed pits can cause diarrhea, vomiting and abdominal pain.
- **Azalea** – all parts, mostly leaves can cause stomach irritation, abdominal pain, abnormal heart rate and rhythm, convulsions, coma and even death.
- **Balsam Pear** – Diarrhea, vomiting and abdominal pain.
- **Castor Bean** – All parts of this plant can be toxic, but especially the seeds if they are chewed. They can cause nausea, abdominal pain, bloody diarrhea, tenesmus, dehydration, shortness of breath, excessive thirst, weakness, muscle twitching, convulsions and even coma.
- **Cherry** – Rapid breathing, shock, mouth inflammation and heart rate increase.
- **Creeping Charlie** – All parts of this plant can cause drooling but is not usually fatal.
- **English Ivy** – Stomach upset, hyperactivity, labored breathing, drooling, fever, thirst increase, pupil dilation, staggering, coma, and even death.
- **Ficus (Cuban Laurel)** – Stomach upset.
- **Ficus Lyrata (Fiddle-leaf)** – Stomach upset, irritated skin.
- **Hemlock** – All parts of this plant, roots and root stalks can cause dilated pupils, frothing at the mouth, spasms, restlessness, convulsions and death (within 15 minutes to 2 hours).
- **Hyacinth** – The bulbs, leaves and flowers can cause colic, vomiting and diarrhea, but is usually not fatal.
- **Hydrangea** – The leaves and buds of this shrub can cause irritation and inflammation of the digestive tract, diarrhea and bloody stool.
- **Japanese Plum** – Diarrhea, vomiting and abdominal pain.
- **Jasmine** – convulsions and death.
- **Jimson Weed** – All parts of this plant can cause rapid pulse, rapid breathing, dilated pupils, nervousness, twitching, frequent urination, diarrhea, depression, weight loss, weak pulse, convulsions, coma and death.

•**Johnson Grass** – The leaves and stems of young plants can cause breathing problems, severe anxiety, convulsions, coma and death. There is an intravenous antidote to this toxin.

•**Latana** – The leaves and berries can cause sluggishness, weakness, boldly diarrhea. In severe cases, death can occur in 2 to 4 days.

•**Nightshade** – All parts of this plant can cause hallucinations, severe intestinal disturbances, diarrhea, drowsiness, numbness, dilated pupils, trembling, labored breathing, nasal discharge, rapid heartbeat, weak pulse, lack of coordination, paralysis or severe shaking of the rear legs, bloat, and it can be fatal.

•**Oak** – Varied effects.

•**Peach** – Diarrhea, vomiting and abdominal pain.

•**Philodendron (Devil's Ivy)** – Upset stomach, convulsions, asphyxiation, death.

•**Pigweed** – The leaves, stems and roots of this plant can cause troubled breathing, trembling, weakness, coma and death.

•**Pokeweed** – All parts of this plant can cause colic, diarrhea, blood in stool, anemia and possible death.

•**Rhubarb** – Leaves of this plant can cause staggering, trembling, breathing difficulties, weakness, diarrhea, increased drinking and urinating and even death.

•**Tomato Plants and Green Tomatoes**

•**Virginia Creeper** – Varied effects.

•**Wild Cherry** – Diarrhea, vomiting and abdominal pain.

•**Yew (American, English and Western)** – Breathing problems, trembling, weakness, heart problems, stomach upset and very sudden death.



HOUSEPLANTS

- ***Aloe Vera*** – Diarrhea
- ***Asparagus Fern*** – Vomiting, respiratory problems, kidney failure, tremors, abdominal pain.
- ***Caladium*** – Mouth irritation, stomach upset, asphyxiation, tremors, seizures, death.
- ***Colocasia (Elephant's Ear)*** – Mouth irritation, stomach upset, asphyxiation, tremors, seizures, death.
- ***Diffenbachia (Dumb Cane)*** – Mouth irritation, stomach upset, asphyxiation, tremors, seizures, death.
- ***Mum (Pot and Spider)*** – Skin irritation.
- ***Mistletoe*** – Varied effects.
- ***Philodendron (Saddle Leaf, Split Leaf)*** – Mouth irritation, stomach upset.
- ***Poinsetta*** – Mouth irritation, stomach upset.
- ***Umbrella Plant*** – Vomiting, respiratory problems, kidney failure, tremors, abdominal pain.

Another important note is that there are some foods that **we eat everyday** that can be toxic or fatal to your beloved pet. The following is a list of some foods that can be dangerous to our pets.

- ***Alcoholic Beverages***: Can cause intoxication, coma and death.
- ***Apple Seeds***: Contains cyanogenic glycosides which result in cyanide poisoning.
- ***Apricot Pits***: Contains cyanogenic glycosides which result in cyanide poisoning.
- ***Avocados***: The fruit, pit, and plant can all cause difficulty breathing, fluid accumulation in chest, abdomen and heart.
- ***Baby Food***: Can contain onion powder which is toxic to dogs.
- ***Broccoli in Large Amounts***
- ***Candy with Xylitol***
- ***Cat food***: Can cause diarrhea and/or Pancreatitis from the sudden change in diet.
- ***Cherry Pits***: Contains cyanogenic glycosides which result in cyanide poisoning.
- ***Chocolate, Coffee, Tea and Caffeine Products***: Caffeine, Theobromine, and Theophylline can be toxic and affect the heart and nervous system.
- ***Citrus Oil Extracts***: Can cause vomiting.
- ***Fat Trimmings from Leftovers***: High fat content can cause Pancreatitis -- especially COOKED fats.
- ***Grapes and Raisins***: An unknown toxin can damage the Liver.
- ***Hops***: Causes panting, increased heart rate, elevated temp, seizures and death.
- ***Human Vitamin Supplements with Iron***: Can damage the lining of the digestive system and be toxic to liver and kidneys as well.

- Large Amounts of Liver:** Can cause Vitamin A toxicity which affects muscles and bones.
- Macadamia Nuts:** Unknown toxin can affect the digestive and nervous systems and muscle.
- Marijuana:** Can depress the nervous system, cause vomiting, and changes in heart rate.
- Moldy or Spoiled Food:** Can cause vomiting and diarrhea, and also affect other organs.
- Mushrooms/ Toadstools:** Toxins may affect multiple systems, cause shock and result in death.
- Mustard Seeds**
- Nutmeg:** Can cause tremors, seizure and death
- Onions and Garlic:** Sulfoxides and Disulfides which can damage red blood cells causing Anemia. Garlic less toxic than Onions.
- Persimmons:** Seeds can cause intestinal obstruction and enteritis.
- Pits from Peaches, Pears and Plums:** Cause obstructions and contains cyanogenic glycosides which result in cyanide poisoning.
- Potato, Rhubarb and Tomato Leaves; Potato and Tomato Stems:** Contain oxalates which can affect digestive, nervous and urinary systems.
- Salt:** Can cause electrolyte imbalances when eaten in large amounts.
- Tobacco:** Nicotine affects digestive and nervous systems. Can result in rapid heart beat, collapse, coma and death.
- Walnuts**
- Yeast Dough:** Can expand and produce gas in the digestive system, causing pain and possible rupture of stomach or intestines.

 Received this from Scott Cook the local animal handler at
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Spring is in the air, so it's time for the annual "pet safety" checks I do at my house. Part of this process is to remind myself of the potentially toxic foods and plants which I don't want (my dog) Dash involved with.... So here they are; print this and put it up on your fridge!

Webmaster:

The Internet is a good source of information to educate ourselves on the dangers of plants and food to our pets.

Here is a link to the ASPCA website for more information and other plants not listed above.
http://www.asPCA.org/Pet-care/poison-control/Plants.aspx?plant_toxicity=toxic-to-dogs

"When in doubt, always err on the side of caution and call your veterinary clinic or pet emergency hospital. It is better to be wrong and have your pet live rather than to regret not taking any action if it is indeed something serious. Do yourself and your pet a favor by having on hand these three important things:

- Veterinarian's contact information
- Emergency Hospital contact & location information
- First Aid Kit"

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