



Plants Poisonous to Cats

Plants add the needed finishing touches to any décor. But, if you have a feline family member, that beautiful plant could become a deadly enemy. It is a well-known fact that cats are curious by nature and will occasionally get themselves into trouble on account of this. While cats do feast on a great many plants, especially those found in the home, they are usually less likely to feed on an entire plant as most dogs will. Nonetheless, you should always be aware of toxic plants to cats in order to prevent any future issues in and around the home so you can keep your beloved cats healthy and safe.

There are numerous plants that are poisonous to cats thus it is important to know what plants in your home or in your yard are toxic to cats. Listed below is a group of popular and common plants poisonous to cats that must be avoided if there are cats in your home. It is extremely important to note that **lilies**, in particular, are dangerous to cats. Since there are so many plants toxic to cats, we decided to split them into groups of the most common poisonous plants having **mild**, **moderate**, or **severe** effects.

Should your feline friend eat part of a poisonous plant, rush the cat to your veterinarian as soon as possible. If you can, take the plant with you for ease of identification.

Mildly Toxic Plants to Cats

Although there are many types of plants that can be toxic to cats, most may actually be found in or around the home. Here are some of the most common plants poisonous to cats with mild symptoms:

- **Philodendron – Pothos – Dieffenbachia – Peace Lily – Poinsettia.** Whether it comes from chewing on or ingesting the plants, all of these can lead to mouth and throat irritation, drooling and vomiting. Note: Massive amounts of poinsettias must be ingested before symptoms occur.
- **Ficus and Snake (Mother-in-laws tongue) plants** can result in vomiting and diarrhea, while **Dracaena (corn plant)** may cause vomiting, drooling, and staggering. **Jade** carries the same symptoms in addition to depression.
- **Aloe plants** can result in vomiting, diarrhea, lack of appetite, and staggering.
- Did you know that **catnip** can be mildly toxic too? While it's normal for cats to appear "drunk" or somewhat "wild" when nibbling on the plant, too much within a short time can also result in vomiting and diarrhea.

Moderately Poisonous Plants for Cats

Some plants result in more severe poisoning. These include:

- **Ivy** can cause vomiting, diarrhea, drooling, breathing difficulty, fever and muscle weakness.
- **Azalea and rhododendrons** can cause vomiting, diarrhea, hyper salivation, weakness, depression of the central nervous system and, in severe cases, death.

- **Holly shrubs** may result in digestive upset and nervous system depression.
- **Norfolk pine** causes vomiting, depression, pale gums and low body temperature.
- **Euphorbia (spurge) plants** result in mild to moderate digestive upset and excessive salivation.

Severely Toxic Plants to Cats

Severely toxic plants can include any of the following:

- With exception to peace lily and calla lily, all other **lily varieties are major threats to cats**, causing kidney failure and death. *It takes only a small amount to result in poisoning.*
- **Hydrangea shrubs** contain a toxin similar to cyanide and can quickly lead to oxygen deprivation and death.
- All parts of **sago palm** are considered poisonous, with the seeds (nuts) being the most toxic part of the plant. Ingestion results in acute gastrointestinal symptoms, tremors and severe liver failure.
- **Oleander**, even in small amounts, can kill your cat. All parts are highly toxic, resulting in digestive problems, vomiting and diarrhea, irregular heartbeat, depression and death.
- **Mistletoe** can also lead to death. Other symptoms include digestive irritation, low heart rate and temperature, breathing difficulty, staggering, excess thirst, seizures and coma.
- In small doses, even a couple bites, the **skunk cabbage plant** can cause burning and swelling of the mouth and a choking sensation. Eating large portions of the leaves can, in extreme cases, be fatal.

With any of these above severely poisonous plants for cats, don't wait for major symptoms to appear. Take your cat to the veterinarian, along with the plant (if possible) as soon as you can. Also, keep in mind that symptoms will vary from cat to cat, depending on their size and the parts or quantities of the plant ingested.

For more extensive lists of plants poisonous to cats, please visit:

[ASPCA: Toxic and Non-Toxic Plant List for Cats](#)

Poison Prevention

Keeping your indoor cat safe from poisonous plants is fairly easy – simply do not bring toxic plants into your home, even it is means declining a gorgeous bouquet of flowers. If you really want to beautify your home by decorating with plants and flowers then before sprucing up your home, do some research and speak with your veterinarian to ensure that your choices don't include poisonous plants to cats. There are plenty if safe options, like African violets, jasmine and begonias, that are eye-catching and safe for your beloved feline family member.

EndFIP® has a vision: every cat a healthy cat. This vision expands beyond the boundaries of FIP. The focus of our global initiative is to educate, inform and inspire people to create lasting solution to prevent cats from becoming infected with feline coronavirus, thus preventing FIP altogether. We also like to provide information about other issues affecting cats worldwide.

EndFIP® is dedicated to keeping cats healthy and happy.



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