

+ TOXIC PLANT RAPID REFERENCE

TOXIC
PLANTS

KEY NOTES

- Severity may vary depending on plant part, quantity ingested and concentration of toxic principles.
- Clinical signs and toxic doses may differ between dogs and cats, and may also vary according to patient age, underlying disease, and co-ingestants.
- Different plants can share a common name, and a single plant can have multiple common names. Where possible, identification should be confirmed using the botanical (scientific) name
- Toxicity classifications within this guide are intended as a rapid clinical reference only and should always be interpreted alongside patient history, timing of exposure, estimated dose, and presenting clinical signs.
- Some plants contain multiple toxic compounds affecting different organ systems simultaneously. Patients may therefore present with mixed or evolving clinical signs.
- Delayed onset toxicity can occur with certain plant exposures; absence of clinical signs immediately following ingestion does not exclude the risk of significant toxicosis.
- Induction of emesis, activated charcoal administration, and further decontamination procedures should be considered on a case-by-case basis according to species, time since ingestion, and patient stability.
- If in doubt, or if clinical signs are present, seek advice from the Veterinary Poisons Information Service (VPIS) and initiate appropriate supportive care and monitoring.

SEVERE RISK = 
MODERATE RISK = 



ORGAN AFFECTED



ORGAN NOT AFFECTED

SCIENTIFIC (COMMON NAME)	SP	RISK	TOXIN	GI	NEURO	CV	OTHER	KEY SIGNS
Aconitum (Monkshood, Wolfsbane)			Aconitine and diterpene alkaloids					GI signs, weakness, arrhythmias, dyspnoea.
Allium (Onion, garlic, leeks and chives)			N-propyl disulfide					Heinz body anaemia, weakness, haemoglobinuria, tachycardia, vomiting, collapse.
Alocasia (Giant elephant's ear, Giant taro)			Insoluble calcium oxalates					Oral irritation/swelling, drooling, difficulty swallowing, vomiting.
Atropa belladonna (Deadly nightshade, Belladonna)			Scopolamine and other tropane alkaloids					Vomiting, diarrhoea, bradycardia, mydriasis, behavioural changes, depression.
Colchicum (Autumn crocus, Meadow saffron, Naked lady)			Colchicine and other alkaloids					GI bleeding, multi-organ failure, bone marrow suppression.
Convallaria (Lily of the valley)			Cardiac glycosides					Vomiting, diarrhoea, bradycardia, arrhythmias, seizures.
Cycas (Sago palm)			Cycasin					Vomiting, melaena, coagulopathy, liver failure.
Daphne (Spurge laurel, Mezereon, Copsé laurel)			Diterpene esters (Daphnetoxin, Mezerein), in bark, leaves and fruit					Oral, oesophageal and stomach ulceration, drooling, vomiting, diarrhoea.
Dieffenbachia (Dumbcane)			Insoluble calcium oxalates, proteolytic enzyme					Oral irritation, drooling, difficulty swallowing, vomiting, tremors, seizures.
Digitalis (Foxglove)			Cardiac glycosides					Vomiting, diarrhoea, arrhythmias, weakness, cardiac failure, sudden death.
Euphorbia (Spurge, Zig-zag plant, Pencil cactus)			Irritant sap					Vomiting, diarrhoea, ocular, oral, dermal irritation.
Hemerocallis (Daylily)			Unknown toxicant. Toxic to cats					Vomiting, anorexia, lethargy, acute kidney failure.
Humulus lupulus (Hops)			Unknown toxicant. Toxic to dogs					Malignant hyperthermia, tachypnoea, tachycardia, seizures, lethargy.
Lilium (Lily, Easter lily, Tiger lily)			Unknown toxicant. Toxic to cats					Vomiting, anorexia, lethargy, acute kidney failure.
Nerium oleander (Oleander, Rose bay)			Cardiac glycosides					Drooling, abdominal pain, diarrhoea, arrhythmias.
Oenanthe (Hemlock water dropwort)			Oenanthe toxin					Drooling, vomiting, seizures, respiratory distress, death
Ornithogalum (Star-of-Bethlehem)			Cardiac glycosides					Vomiting, anorexia, arrhythmias, weakness, collapse.
Ricinus communis (Castor bean, Castor oil plant, Palma christi)			Ricin. Seeds are highly toxic; even small amounts can be fatal.					Oral irritation, severe vomiting and diarrhoea, weakness, tremors, seizures, renal failure, sudden death.
Rhododendron syn. Azalea (Rhododendron, Azalea)			Grayantoxin. Even small amounts can be fatal					Vomiting, diarrhoea, drooling, weakness, arrhythmias, hypotension, seizures, depression.
Taxus (Yew)			Taxine					Vomiting, weakness, dyspnoea, tremors, seizures, heart failure.
SCIENTIFIC/COMMON NAME	SP	RISK	TOXIN	GI	NEURO	CV	OTHER	KEY SIGNS
Aesculus (Horse chestnut, conker tree, Buckeye)			Aesculin and other saponins					Vomiting, diarrhoea, mydriasis, depression or excitement, ataxia, weakness, seizures.
Aglaonema (Chinese evergreen)			Insoluble calcium oxalates					Oral irritation / swelling, drooling, difficulty swallowing, vomiting.
Aloe (Aloe vera)			Saponins, anthraquinones					Vomiting, diarrhoea, lethargy.
Anthurium (Flamingo flower)			Insoluble calcium oxalates					Oral irritation / swelling, drooling, difficulty swallowing, vomiting.
Buxus (Box/ boxwood)			Alkaloids					Vomiting, diarrhoea.
Caladium (Angel's wings, Elephant's ears)			Insoluble calcium oxalates					Oral irritation / swelling, drooling, difficulty swallowing, vomiting.
Clematis (Traveller's joy, Old man's beard)			Irritant glycoside (Protoanemonin)					Drooling, vomiting, diarrhoea.
Crassula ovata (Jade plant)			Unknown toxicant					Vomiting, anorexia, lethargy, ataxia.
Cyclamen (Sowbread)			Terpenoid saponins					Vomiting, diarrhoea. Large ingestions (esp tubers): arrhythmias, seizures
Delphinium syn. Consolida (Delphinium, Larkspur)			Diterpene alkaloids					Lethargy, vomiting, diarrhoea.
Dracaena (Dragon tree, Snake plant, Corn plant)			Saponins					Vomiting, anorexia, drooling. Cats: mydriasis, ataxia.
Epipremnum (Devil's ivy, Golden pothos)			Insoluble calcium oxalates					Oral irritation / swelling, drooling, difficulty swallowing, vomiting.

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Ficus (Weeping fig, Indian rubber plant)			Irritant sap (ficin, ficusin)					GI and dermal irritation.
Galanthus (Snowdrop)			Alkaloids. Bulbs are the most toxic					Vomiting, diarrhoea, drooling.
Gladiolus (Gladiolus)			Unknown toxicant. Corms/bulbs are the most toxic					Drooling, vomiting, diarrhoea. Large ingestions: lethargy, ataxia.
Hedera (Ivy)			Triterpenoid saponins (hederagenin). Foliage more toxic than berries					Vomiting, diarrhoea, drooling, abdominal pain.
Helleborus (Hellebore, Christmas rose)			Bufadienolides, glycosides, veratrine and protoanemonin					Diarrhoea, abdominal pain, drooling, lethargy.
Heracleum mantegazzianum (Giant Hogweed)			Furanocoumarins					Photosensitisation, skin blisters, ulcers and erythema, vomiting
Hippeastrum (Amaryllis)			Lycorine and other alkaloids; Bulbs are the most toxic					Vomiting, diarrhoea, drooling. Large ingestions: tremors, seizures, hypotension.
Hyacinthoides non-scripta (Bluebell)			Scillarens (cardiac glycosides)					Vomiting, diarrhoea, arrhythmias, abdominal pain.
Hyacinthus (Hyacinth)			Alkaloids. Bulbs are the most toxic					Vomiting, diarrhoea (+/- blood), anorexia, lethargy, tremors.
Hydrangea (Hydrangea)			Cyanogenic glycosides. Cyanide is released when chewed					Vomiting, diarrhoea, lethargy.
Iris (Iris, Stinking iris, Flag iris, Bearded iris)			Pentacyclic terpenoids. Bulbs (rhizomes) are the most toxic					Vomiting, diarrhoea, drooling, lethargy.
Kalanchoe blossfeldiana (Flaming Katy)			Bufadienolides					Vomiting, diarrhoea, arrhythmias.
Laburnum (Laburnum, Golden chain)			Cytisine. The seeds are highly toxic					Vomiting, diarrhoea, tremors, seizures.
Lantana (Shrub verbena)			Pentacyclic triterpenoids					Vomiting , diarrhoea, anorexia, liver injury.
Ligustrum (Privet)			Terpenoid glycosides					Vomiting, diarrhoea, anorexia, ataxia, arrhythmias.
Lobelia (Cardinal flower, Lobelia)			Lobeline					Vomiting, diarrhoea, drooling, lethargy, abdominal pain, arrhythmias.
Monstera (Swiss cheese plant, Mexican breadfruit)			Insoluble calcium oxalates					Oral irritation / swelling, drooling, difficulty swallowing, vomiting.
Narcissus (Daffodil, Jonquil)			Lycorine and other alkaloids. Bulbs are the most toxic.					Vomiting, diarrhoea, drooling. Large ingestions: hypotension, seizures, tremors, arrhythmias.
Paeonia (Peony)			Paeonol					Vomiting, diarrhoea, depression.
Papaver (Poppy, Opium poppy)			Opioid alkaloids					Inappetance, sedation, ataxia.
Pelargonium (Geranium)			Geraniol, linalool					Vomiting, anorexia, depression, skin irritant.
Philodendron (Blushing Philodendron, Heart leaf, Sweetheart plant)			Insoluble calcium oxalates					Oral irritation / swelling, drooling, difficulty swallowing, vomiting.
Pieris (Pieris)			Grayanotoxins					Vomiting, diarrhoea, drooling, depression, weakness, hypotension, arrhythmias.
Prunus laurocerasus (Cherry laurel, Laurel)			Cyanogenic glycoside					Vomiting, diarrhoea, abdo pain. Large ingestions: mydriasis, dyspnoea, tremors, weakness, hypotension, collapse.
Quercus (Oak)			Tannins					Vomiting, diarrhoea (+/- blood), depression, abdo pain. Acorns may cause GI obstruction. Rarely, hepatic & renal damage.
Rheum rhabarbarum (Rhubarb)			Soluble calcium oxalates. Leaves are most toxic					Drooling, vomiting, hypocalcaemia, tremors, renal failure.
Sambucus (Elder, Elderberry)			Cyanogenic glycoside, Irritant terpenoids					Vomiting, diarrhoea.
Spathiphyllum (Peace lily)			Insoluble calcium oxalates					Oral irritation / swelling, drooling, difficulty swallowing, vomiting.
Syngonium (Arrowhead vine, Nephthytis)			Insoluble calcium oxalates					Oral irritation / swelling, drooling, difficulty swallowing, vomiting.
Tulipa (Tulip)			Tulipalin. Bulbs are the most toxic					Vomiting, diarrhoea, drooling, depression.
Viscum album (Mistletoe)			Viscotoxin, lectin					Vomiting, diarrhoea, drooling, abdominal pain.
Wisteria (Wisteria)			Wisterin glycoside					Vomiting (+/- blood), diarrhoea, abdominal pain, depression.
Yucca (Yucca)			Saponins					Vomiting, diarrhoea.
Zantedeschia aethiopica (Calla lily, arum lily)			Insoluble calcium oxalates					Oral irritation/swelling, drooling, difficulty swallowing, vomiting.

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