

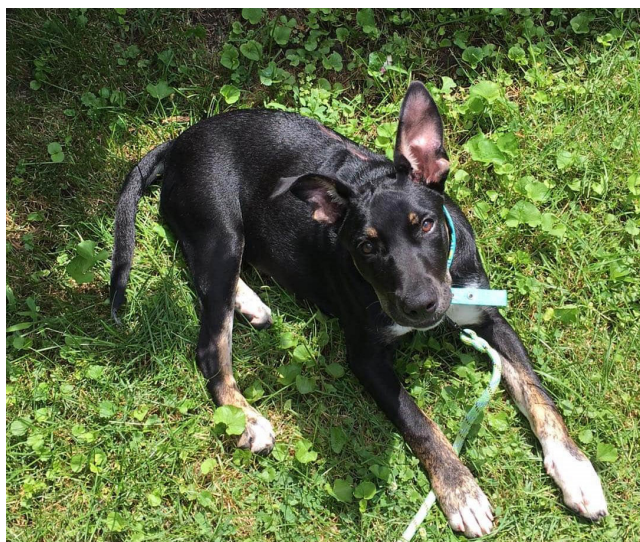
Illinois Extension Plants and Pet Safety

Plants that are poisonous for pets

Not all plants that are safe for humans are safe for companion animals. Pets may consume house plants or plants in the yard that can make them sick. Some are potentially fatal. Knowing what plants you have and limiting exposure can prevent issues.

Plant defenses

Plants have several natural defenses to protect themselves against pests, including physical and chemical barriers. Physical barriers might be things like fine hairs on okra, prickles on cucumbers, thorns on roses, and spines on cacti. Chemical barriers are phytochemicals that can cause various issues depending on exposure and toxicity, such as irritation or illness. Bitterness is an example of a chemical barrier.



Limit pet exposure to house plants

With both existing house plants or when bringing plants inside for the winter, there are some ways to limit exposure to keep both your plants and pets safe.

- Identify and label plants. Label plants that are unsafe for pets.
- Keep non-pet-friendly plants in a room out of reach.
- Discard plant debris and clippings into an outdoor receptacle or one away from pets.
- Use metal cages or terrariums for added protection if you are unable to keep plants in a separate room.

Plants that are Poisonous to Pets

Know what plants you have inside and in your landscape and how they will affect companion animals. University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine maintains a [Poisonous Plant Garden](#) on the Urbana-Champaign campus to educate veterinary students and others on how to identify poisonous plants. The garden can be booked for tours and a list of plants and identifying features is available on their website.

The following list of poisonous plants is not all inclusive. The [American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals](#) also has species-specific poisonous plant lists for dogs, cats, and horses.

If you suspect a pet has consumed one of these plants, contact your veterinarian immediately.

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|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| • Amaryllis | • Daffodil | • Iris | • Oleander |
| • Andromeda | • Daphne | • Jasmine | • Peach |
| • Apple Seeds | • Delphinium | • Jimson Weed | • Philodendron |
| • Apricot | • Dieffenbachia | • Kalanchoe species | • Poinsettia |
| • Arrowgrass | • Elephant Ear | • Laburnum | • Poison Ivy |
| • Avocado | • English Ivy | • Larkspur | • Privet |
| • Bittersweet | • Elderberry | • Laurel | • Rhododendron |
| • Boxwood | • Foxglove | • Locoweed | • Rhubarb |
| • Buttercup | • Glory Lily | • Marigold | • Stinging Nettle |
| • Caladium | • Hemlock | • Mistletoe | • Tobacco |
| • Castor Beans | • Hemp | • Monkshood | • Tulip |
| • Cherry Pits | • Holly | • Mushrooms | • Walnut |
| • Chokecherry | • Hyacinth | • Narcissus | • Wisteria |
| • Crown of Thorns | • Hydrangea | • Nightshade | • Yew |

Source: University of Nebraska Extension

Author

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References

- University of Nebraska Extension, [Plants and Household Products Poisonous to Pets](#)
- University of Illinois, College of Veterinary Medicine, [Poisonous Plant Garden](#)
- Cornell University, Department of Animal Science, [Plants Poisonous to Livestock](#)
- American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, [Poisonous Plants](#)

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