

Plants Poisonous to Cats

By Franny Syufy, About.com

Many of us love to decorate our homes with lush, green plants, and if you are like me, you prefer the live variety to silk or plastic. The downside to live plants, however, is that many of them are toxic to cats. Cats love to chew plants, so if you have any on this list, it is best to display them in a way that keeps them (and your cats) out of harm's way.

The following is a partial list of plants that are poisonous or hazardous to your cats, including some popular holiday plants. This list is by no means exhaustive.

Plant Common Name	Effects and Symptoms
Amaryllis	Stomach and intestinal upset (vomiting, diarrhea)
Azalea	Non-coordination, trembling, collapse
Cactus	Punctures skin, infection
Caladium	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, shaking head, difficulty breathing
Creeping Charlie	Vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain, cramps
Easter Lily	All parts can cause kidney failure
Dieffenbachia	Affects central nervous system
Ivy	Vomiting, diarrhea, excitable behavior
Mistletoe	Ingesting berries can cause vomiting, diarrhea, blistering in the mouth, difficulty breathing
Philodendron	Same as Caladium
Poinsettia	Same as Mistletoe

If You Think Your Cat Has Been Poisoned

Contact your veterinarian or the ASPCA National Animal Poison Control Center at:

1.900.443.0000 (\$45.00 per case, charge is billed directly to caller's phone)

1.888.426.4435 (\$45.00 per case, credit card only)

Follow-up calls can be made for no additional charge by dialing **888-299-2973**.

<http://cats.about.com/cs/catmanagement101/a/poisonplants.htm>