

Common House (Indoor) Plants Toxic To Cats

 cat-world.com.au/common-household-plants-toxic-to-cats.html

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Levels of toxicity can range from mild gastrointestinal disturbances to severe and life-threatening toxicity.

Symptoms of poisoning can vary depending on the plant ingested, but common signs can include the following:

- Drooling
- Wobbly gait
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Seizures
- Increased or decreased urination
- Loss of appetite
- Mouth ulcers
- Dilated pupils

What are insoluble calcium oxalate crystals?



Many plants have evolved to protect themselves from herbivores with needle-like raphides of calcium oxalate. When the plant is chewed, these needle-like crystals embed in the delicate tissues of the oral cavity leading to swelling, vesicles, difficulty swallowing, oral

pain, drooling, and in severe cases, swelling of the throat which can cause difficulty breathing.

Rubber plant



Scientific name: *Ficus elastica*

Other names: Rubber fig, Indian rubber bush, Indian rubber tree, rubber fig, rubber bush

Level of toxicity: Mild

Toxic compound: Unknown

Toxic parts: Sap

Causes: Gastrointestinal disturbances

Symptoms: Vomiting, diarrhea, drooling, loss of appetite

Peace lily



Scientific name: *Spathiphyllum spp*

Level of toxicity: Mild

Toxic compound: Insoluble calcium oxalate crystals

Toxic parts: Mild gastrointestinal disturbances and skin irritation

Causes: Oral irritation

Symptoms: Drooling, pawing at the mouth, oral swelling and pain, vomiting, loss of appetite and difficulty breathing

Dumbcane



Scientific name: *Dieffenbachia spp*

Other names: Dumb cane, mother-in-laws tongue

Level of toxicity: Mild to moderate

Toxic compound: Insoluble calcium oxalate crystals

Toxic parts: All parts of the plant are toxic to cats

Causes: Oral irritation

Symptoms: Drooling, pawing at the mouth, oral swelling and pain, vomiting, loss of appetite and difficulty breathing

Zanzibar (ZZ) plant



Image [hollyjazzz362](#), Flickr

Scientific name: *Zamioculcas spp*

Other names: Zuzu plant, emerald palm, zanzibar gem

Level of toxicity: Mild to moderate

Toxic compound: Insoluble calcium oxalate crystals

Toxic parts: All parts of the plant are toxic to cats

Causes: Oral irritation

Symptoms: Drooling, pawing at the mouth, oral swelling and pain, vomiting, loss of appetite and difficulty breathing

Cyclamen



Scientific name: *Cyclamen spp*

Other names: Sowbread

Level of toxicity: Mild to moderate

Toxic compound: Terpenoid saponins

Toxic parts: All parts, the tubers are the most toxic

Causes: Gastrointestinal disturbances and abnormal heart rhythm

Symptoms: Vomiting, drooling, diarrhea, loss of appetite, lethargy and abnormal heart rhythm

String of pearls



Scientific name: *Senecio rowleyanus*

Other names: –

Level of toxicity: Mild to moderate

Toxic compound: Pyrrolizidine alkaloids

Toxic parts: All parts of the plant are toxic to cats

Causes: Mild gastrointestinal disturbances and liver toxicity if large amounts ingested (uncommon)

Symptoms: Vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, loss of appetite

Sago palm



Scientific name: Bowenia, Ceratozamia, Cycas, Dioon, Encephalartos, Macrozamia, Microcycas, Stangeria, and Zamia

Other names: Sago palm, king sago, sago cycad, Japanese sago palm, fern palm, coontie palm, cardboard palms, queen sago

Level of toxicity: Severe

Toxic compound: Cycasin, methylazoxymethanol (MAM), B-N-methylamino-L-alanine (L-BMAA) and unidentified

Toxic parts: All parts of the plant, seeds contain the highest amount of toxin

Causes: Gastrointestinal disturbances and liver failure

Symptoms: Vomiting, drooling, diarrhea, loss of appetite, lethargy, increased thirst, abdominal pain, abdominal fluid, jaundice (yellow gums), bleeding, bruising, dark tarry stools

Swiss cheese plant



Scientific name: *Monstera deliciosa*

Level of toxicity: Mild to moderate

Other names: Window leaf plant, hurricane plant, Swiss cheese plant, cheese plant, ceriman, Mexican breadfruit

Toxic compound: Insoluble calcium oxalate crystals

Toxic parts: All parts of the plant are toxic to cats

Causes: Oral irritation

Symptoms: Drooling, pawing at the mouth, oral swelling and pain, vomiting, loss of appetite and difficulty breathing

Jade plant



Scientific name: *Crassula argentea*

Level of toxicity: Moderate

Other names: Japanese rubber plant, baby jade, friendship tree, lucky plant

Toxic compound: Unknown

Toxic parts: All parts of the plant are toxic to cats

Causes: Gastrointestinal disturbances

Symptoms: Vomiting, lethargy, incoordination

Aloe Vera



Scientific name: *Aloe Vera*

Level of toxicity: Mild to moderate

Other names: First aid plant

Toxic compound: Saponins, anthraquinone glycosides

Toxic parts: All parts of the plant are toxic to cats

Causes: Gastrointestinal disturbances

Symptoms: Vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, lethargy

Anthurium:



Scientific name: *Anthurium scherzeranum*

Level of toxicity: Mild to moderate

Common names: Pigtail plant, painter's pallet, laceleaf, oilcloth flower, flamingo lily and tail flower

Toxic compound: Insoluble calcium oxalate crystals

Toxic parts: All parts of the plant are toxic to cats

Causes: Mild gastrointestinal disturbances and skin irritation

Symptoms: Drooling, pawing at the mouth, oral swelling and pain, vomiting, loss of appetite

Pothos



Scientific name: *Epipremnum aureum*

Level of toxicity: Mild to moderate

Other names: Devil's ivy, golden pothos, taro vine, silver vine, ivy arum, hunter's robe

Toxic compound: Insoluble calcium oxalate crystals

Toxic parts: All parts of the plant are toxic to cats

Causes: Gastrointestinal and oral irritation

Symptoms: Drooling, oral pain, difficulty swallowing, oral ulceration, vomiting, loss of appetite

Elephant Ear



Scientific name: *Colocasia spp*

Other names: Tarul, karkala ko ganu, elephant-ear, taro, cocoyam, dasheen, chembu, champadhumpa, shavige gadde, eddoe.

Level of toxicity: Mild to moderate

Toxic compound: Insoluble calcium oxalate crystals

Toxic parts: All parts of the plant are toxic to cats

Causes: Oral irritation

Symptoms: Drooling, pawing at the mouth, oral swelling and pain, vomiting, loss of appetite and difficulty breathing

Cordyline



Image [Michael Coghlan](#), Flickr

Scientific name: *Cordyline spp*

Other names: Ti-plant

Level of toxicity: Mild to moderate

Toxic compound: Saponins

Toxic parts: Leaves

Causes: Gastrointestinal disturbances

Symptoms: Vomiting, loss of appetite, lethargy, dilated pupils

Schefflera



Scientific name: *Schefflera spp*

Level of toxicity: Mild to moderate

Other names: Umbrella plant, Australian ivy palm, star leaf, octopus tree

Toxic compound: Insoluble calcium oxalate crystals

Toxic parts: All parts of the plant are toxic to cats

Causes: Gastrointestinal and oral irritation

Symptoms: Drooling, oral pain, difficulty swallowing, oral ulceration, vomiting, loss of appetite

Asparagus fern



Scientific name: *Asparagus aethiopicus*

Level of toxicity: Mild

Other names: Sprenger's asparagus, foxtail fern, emerald feather, emerald fern

Toxic compound: Saponins

Toxic parts: Berries

Causes: Mild gastrointestinal disturbances and skin irritation

Symptoms: Drooling, pawing at the mouth, oral swelling and pain, vomiting, loss of appetit

Sansevieria



Scientific name: *Sansevieria trifasciata*

Level of toxicity: Mild to moderate

Other names: Snake plant, mother-in-laws tongue

Toxic compound: Saponins

Toxic parts: All parts of the plant are toxic to cats

Causes: Mild gastrointestinal upset

Symptoms: Nausea, drooling, loss of appetite, vomiting and diarrhea

Chinese evergreen



Image courtesy [Marissa Anderson](#), Flickr

Scientific name: *Aglaonema spp*

Level of toxicity: Mild to moderate

Toxic compound: Insoluble calcium oxalate crystals

Toxic parts: All parts of the plant are toxic to cats

Causes: Gastrointestinal and oral irritation

Symptoms: Drooling, oral pain and swelling, difficulty swallowing, oral ulceration, vomiting, loss of appetite

Corn plant (dracaena)



Scientific name: *Dracaena spp*

Level of toxicity: Mild to moderate

Other names: Corn plant, cornstalk plant, dragon tree, ribbon plant, money tree

Toxic compound: Saponins

Toxic parts: Leaves

Causes: Gastrointestinal disturbances

Symptoms: Vomiting, loss of appetite, lethargy, dilated pupils

Philodendron



Scientific name: *Philodendron* spp.

Level of toxicity: Mild to moderate

Other names: The philodendron comes in over 400 species, some common names include split-leaf philodendron, horsehead philodendron, cordatum, fiddle-leaf, panda plant, fruit salad plant, red emerald, red princess, saddle leaf

Toxic compound: Insoluble calcium oxalate crystals

Toxic parts: All parts of the plant are toxic to cats

Causes: Gastrointestinal and oral irritation

Symptoms: Drooling, oral pain and swelling, difficulty swallowing, oral ulceration, vomiting, loss of appetite

Fiddle-leaf fig



Image [Lisa Taliana](#), Flickr

Scientific name: *Ficus lyrata*

Level of toxicity: Mild

Toxic compound: Unknown

Toxic parts: Sap

Causes: Gastrointestinal disturbances

Symptoms: Vomiting, diarrhea, drooling, loss of appetite

Yucca plant



Scientific name: *Yucca spp*

Level of toxicity: Mild

Toxic compound: Saponins

Toxic parts: Leaves

Causes: Gastrointestinal disturbances

Symptoms: Vomiting, loss of appetite, lethargy, dilated pupils

Pencil plant



Image courtesy [Ralph Hockens](#), Flickr

Scientific name: *Euphorbia tirucalli*

Other names: Aveloz, firestick plants, Indian tree spurge, naked lady, pencil tree, pencil cactus, sticks on fire or milk bush

Level of toxicity: Mild

Toxic compound: Irritant sap

Toxic parts: Leaves

Causes: Oral irritation

Symptoms: Vomiting and oral irritation

Amarylis



Scientific name: *Amaryllis* spp. or *Hippeastrum* spp.

Level of toxicity: Mild to moderate

Other names: Belladonna lily, naked lady, resurrection lily, butterfly amaryllis, St Joseph lily

Toxic compound: Lycorine

Toxic parts: All parts, the bulb and leaves are the most toxic

Causes: Gastrointestinal disturbances

Symptoms: Vomiting, drooling, diarrhea, abdominal pain, loss of appetite and tremors

Calla lily



Scientific name: *Zantedeschia aethiopica*

Level of toxicity: Mild to moderate

Other names: Arum lily, calla lily, florist's calla, pig lily, white arum, trumpet lily, white arum, garden calla

Toxic compound: Insoluble calcium oxalate crystals

Toxic parts: All parts, the roots are the most toxic

Causes: Gastrointestinal and oral irritation

Symptoms: Drooling, oral pain, difficulty swallowing, oral ulceration, vomiting, loss of appetite

Bird of paradise



Scientific name: *Strelitzia reginae*

Level of toxicity: Mild to moderate

Other names: Crane flower, bird's tongue flower

Toxic compound: Unknown

Toxic parts: All parts, fruit and seeds contain the most toxins

Causes: Gastrointestinal irritation

Symptoms: Nausea, vomiting, drooling, lethargy