

Flowers Which Are Non-Toxic to Cats

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People who share their homes with cats must be aware that many flowers which are popular in floral arrangements or as potted plants are toxic to cats. Toxicity can range from mild gastrointestinal disturbances to life-threatening organ failure. I have omitted some plants which are only toxic if certain parts are ingested (such as tulips).

Included in this list are some flowers which may not necessarily be a part of floral arrangements, but can be grown in pots (such as orchids and African violets) and flowers home owners can grow outside but bring cuttings indoors for their scent and/or beauty (such as lilac, jasmine and roses).

Aster

(Asteraceae)



A daisy-like perennial native to Eurasia, there are 180 species of aster which come in blues, purples and pinks which bloom from late summer to autumn.

Asters are best grown outdoors in garden beds or containers, but also make beautiful cut flowers.

Orchid

(*Orchidaceae*)



With between 20,000 and 30,000 varieties of orchid, you are spoiled for choice. Orchids come in almost every colour imaginable, some are highly fragrant others have no scent.

These hardy flowers make great indoor pot plants, or grown outdoors and bring the pot inside when in flower.

Rose

(Rosa spp.)



Possibly the most well known cut flower, the rose is a shrub long associated with romance and scent. There are 150 species of rose and thousands of hybrids. Roses are best grown outdoors and used as cut flowers.

Cornflower or bachelor's button

(*Asteraceae*)



Another variety of *Asteraceae* family, the cornflower is known for its baby blue flowers.

They are best grown outside, but can be cut and displayed when in flower.

Cock's Comb

(Celosia)



These tropical annuals are extremely hardy and can be grown indoors or outside. When cut, they can be hung upside down and dried to make a stunning floral display. They come in a range of colours including white, orange, blue, pink, purple and red.

Gerbera

(Asteraceae)



Native to South Africa, gerberas are known for their large daisy-like flowers that come in a range of colours, gerberas are easy to grow plants which make beautiful cut flowers.

Pincushion:

(Leucospermum)



A hardy plant native Australia, there are 48 species of pincushion, with flowers in shades of red, orange and pink. This shrub can range in size from 1 to 5 metres, the showy flowers

make an excellent floral arrangement.

Kangaroo paw:

(Haemodoraceae)



Native to Australia, these hardy perennials come in a number of vibrant colours. They are a popular outdoor plant which attract a number of bird species and make an excellent and long-lasting cut flower.

Snapdragon:

(Antirrhinum)



A childhood favourite, snapdragons are easy to grow outdoor plants which can be cut and brought indoors when in flower.

African violet:

(*Saintpaulias*)



With 6 – 20 species, African violets are a popular and easy to grow pot plant native to Tanzania and Kenya.

Forget-me-not:

(*Myosotis sylvatica*)



Easy to grow, the forget-me-not is native to Europe. Produces clusters of tiny blue or pink flowers in spring which can be cut and brought indoors.

Lilac:

(*Syringa vulgaris*)



This shrub produces highly scented flowers in spring in pink, purple and white. May not produce flowers in warmer climates. Cut branches when in flower and bring indoors to enjoy their beautiful scent.

Sunflower:

(*Helianthus*)



Very easy to grow outdoor plant which comes in a huge range of sizes from small to 6 foot tall. The Sunflower can be cut when in flower and brought indoors.

Bottlebrush:

(Callistemon)



Native to Australia, these shrubs come in a number of colours, the most common is a stunning scarlet red. Hardy, and easy to grow in warm climates, the bottle brush shaped flowers make a beautiful indoor floral display.

Statice:

(Limonium)



With 120 species, the statice is a versatile outdoor plant which produces tiny flowers on a long stalk. Can be cut when in flower and brought indoors.

Peruvian Lily:

(*Alstroemeria*)



Not to be confused with Lilies of the genera **Lilium** and **Hemerocallis**, which are highly toxic to cats. Peruvian lily is non-toxic to cats.

Zinnia:

(*Zinnia*)



Native to North and South America, Zinnia is a member of the sunflower tribe known for their bright coloured flowers. These shrubs are outdoor plants which can be cut when in flower for a stunning floral display.

Jasmine:

(*Jasminium spp.*)



There are a number of plants called jasmine which are toxic to cats, however true jasmine is non-toxic. The true jasmine is quite possibly my favourite scented plant, producing beautifully fragrant white flowers in spring which can be cut and brought indoors to fill the home with its heady scent.

Cosmos:

(Cosmos spp.)



Very easy to grow in the garden and makes a lovely floral arrangement indoors.

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