



Toxic Plants for Cats

There are several toxic plants in Georgia that can pose a danger to cats. It's important to be aware of these plants to keep your feline friends safe. Here is a list of common toxic plants for cats found in Georgia:

1. Lily (*Lilium spp.* and *Heimerocallis spp.*)

- **Toxic Part:** All parts, including petals, leaves, and pollen.
- **Symptoms:** Vomiting, lethargy, loss of appetite, kidney failure, and death (especially in high amounts).
- **Notes:** Lilies are highly toxic to cats, even small amounts of pollen or ingested parts can cause kidney damage and death. Common lilies in Georgia include Easter lilies, tiger lilies, and daylilies.

2. Azalea (*Rhododendron spp.*)

- **Toxic Part:** Leaves and flowers.
- **Symptoms:** Vomiting, diarrhea, drooling, lethargy, and even coma or death.
- **Notes:** Azaleas are popular in Georgia gardens, but they can cause serious digestive upset and more severe symptoms in cats if ingested.

3. Oleander (*Nerium oleander*)

- **Toxic Part:** All parts of the plant, including leaves, flowers, and stems.
- **Symptoms:** Vomiting, diarrhea, drooling, lethargy, heart arrhythmias, and death.
- **Notes:** Oleander is extremely toxic to cats and is sometimes used in landscaping. Even small amounts can be fatal.

4. Sago Palm (*Cycas revoluta*)

- **Toxic Part:** All parts, especially the seeds.
- **Symptoms:** Vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, liver failure, and death.
- **Notes:** Sago palms are a popular decorative plant, but they contain cycasin, a potent toxin that can cause severe liver damage and death in cats.

5. Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*)

- **Toxic Part:** All parts of the plant, especially the flowers.
- **Symptoms:** Vomiting, diarrhea, drooling, heart arrhythmias, and death.

- **Notes:** Foxglove contains cardiac glycosides, which can lead to serious heart problems and even death if ingested by cats.

6. Tulips (*Tulipa* spp.)

- **Toxic Part:** Bulbs.
- **Symptoms:** Drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, and loss of appetite.
- **Notes:** While the leaves and flowers are not as toxic, the bulbs of tulips are particularly dangerous to cats if ingested.

7. Castor Bean (*Ricinus communis*)

- **Toxic Part:** Seeds (and any part if ingested in large amounts).
- **Symptoms:** Vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, drooling, and even organ failure and death.
- **Notes:** The castor bean plant contains ricin, a highly toxic compound that can cause severe poisoning and death if ingested by cats.

8. Chrysanthemum (*Chrysanthemum* spp.)

- **Toxic Part:** All parts, especially the leaves and flowers.
- **Symptoms:** Vomiting, diarrhea, drooling, lack of appetite, and lethargy.
- **Notes:** Chrysanthemums contain pyrethrins, which can cause gastrointestinal upset and other symptoms in cats if consumed.

9. Pothos (*Epipremnum aureum*)

- **Toxic Part:** All parts, especially the leaves.
- **Symptoms:** Oral irritation, drooling, vomiting, and difficulty swallowing.
- **Notes:** Pothos, also known as Devil's Ivy, is toxic to cats. It's a common houseplant that can cause irritation to the mouth and throat when ingested.

10. Dieffenbachia (*Dumb Cane*)

- **Toxic Part:** All parts.
- **Symptoms:** Oral irritation, swelling of the mouth and throat, difficulty swallowing, drooling, and vomiting.
- **Notes:** Dieffenbachia contains insoluble calcium oxalates, which can cause severe irritation to the mouth and throat of cats when chewed or ingested.

11. Autumn Crocus (*Colchicum autumnale*)

- **Toxic Part:** All parts, especially the bulb.
- **Symptoms:** Vomiting, diarrhea, liver damage, kidney failure, and death.
- **Notes:** Autumn crocus contains colchicine, a substance that can cause severe toxicity in cats, leading to organ failure and death if consumed.

12. Kalanchoe (*Kalanchoe* spp.)

- **Toxic Part:** All parts, especially the flowers.
- **Symptoms:** Vomiting, diarrhea, drooling, and heart arrhythmias.
- **Notes:** Kalanchoe contains compounds that can cause gastrointestinal upset and heart problems in cats.

13. English Ivy (*Hedera helix*)

- **Toxic Part:** Leaves and berries.
- **Symptoms:** Vomiting, diarrhea, drooling, and abdominal pain.
- **Notes:** English Ivy contains saponins and polyacetylene compounds that can cause gastrointestinal upset and other symptoms in cats when ingested.

14. Amaryllis (*Hippeastrum spp.*)

- **Toxic Part:** Bulb, flowers, and stem.
- **Symptoms:** Vomiting, diarrhea, drooling, and lethargy.
- **Notes:** Amaryllis is another plant that can cause significant gastrointestinal distress and other symptoms if ingested by cats.

15. Wisteria (*Wisteria spp.*)

- **Toxic Part:** Seeds and pods.
- **Symptoms:** Vomiting, diarrhea, and lethargy.
- **Notes:** Wisteria is toxic to cats when the seeds or pods are consumed, potentially leading to severe gastrointestinal issues.

Prevention Tips:

- **Keep Toxic Plants Out of Reach:** Consider placing toxic plants in areas that are inaccessible to cats or avoid having them in your home or garden entirely.
- **Replace Toxic Plants:** If you're unsure about a plant's safety, opt for cat-friendly plants like spider plants, cat grass, or catnip instead.
- **Educate Household Members:** Ensure everyone in your household is aware of the dangers of certain plants to help prevent accidental ingestion.
- **Regularly Inspect Plants:** If you have indoor plants, inspect them regularly to make sure they are not deteriorating or shedding parts that your cat might eat.

What to Do if Your Cat Ingests a Toxic Plant:

If you suspect your cat has ingested a toxic plant, contact your veterinarian immediately or reach out to an emergency animal poison control helpline. Time is crucial, as prompt treatment can make a significant difference in the outcome.

Being mindful of the plants in and around your home and garden can help keep your feline friend safe and healthy.