



Toxic Plants for Dogs

In Georgia, several plants are toxic to dogs, and it's important to be aware of these in order to protect your furry friends. Here is a list of common toxic plants in Georgia that can pose risks to dogs:

1. Azalea (*Rhododendron* spp.)

- **Toxic Part:** Leaves and flowers.
- **Symptoms:** Vomiting, diarrhea, drooling, lethargy, and in severe cases, coma or death.
- **Notes:** Azaleas are commonly found in gardens in Georgia, and even small amounts ingested by dogs can be harmful.

2. 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 highly toxic to dogs, and even a small amount can be fatal.

3. Sago Palm (*Cycas revoluta*)

- **Toxic Part:** All parts, especially the seeds.
- **Symptoms:** Vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, liver failure, and death.
- **Notes:** Sago palms are popular ornamental plants, but they contain cycasin, a toxin that causes severe liver damage and can be fatal to dogs.

4. Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*)

- **Toxic Part:** All parts, especially the flowers.
- **Symptoms:** Vomiting, diarrhea, drooling, heart arrhythmias, and death.
- **Notes:** Foxglove contains digitalis, a toxin that can cause heart problems in dogs, including arrhythmias that may lead to death.

5. Lily (*Lilium* spp.)

- **Toxic Part:** All parts, including petals, leaves, and pollen.
- **Symptoms:** Vomiting, lethargy, loss of appetite, kidney failure, and death.
- **Notes:** While lilies are more toxic to cats, they can still cause gastrointestinal upset and other symptoms in dogs if ingested.

6. Tulips (*Tulipa* spp.)

- **Toxic Part:** Bulbs.
- **Symptoms:** Drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, and loss of appetite.
- **Notes:** Tulip bulbs contain toxins called tulipalin A and B, which can cause gastrointestinal distress in dogs when ingested.

7. Rhododendron (*Rhododendron* spp.)

- **Toxic Part:** Leaves and flowers.
- **Symptoms:** Vomiting, diarrhea, drooling, and lethargy.
- **Notes:** Rhododendrons are closely related to azaleas, and like azaleas, they can cause serious gastrointestinal upset and other symptoms in dogs if ingested.

8. Castor Bean (*Ricinus communis*)

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

9. 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, which can cause severe toxicity leading to organ failure in dogs.

10. 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 distress and heart problems in dogs.

11. 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 dogs when ingested.

12. 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 dogs if consumed.

13. Pothos (*Epipremnum aureum*)

- **Toxic Part:** All parts, especially the leaves.
- **Symptoms:** Oral irritation, drooling, vomiting, and difficulty swallowing.
- **Notes:** Pothos is a common houseplant that is toxic to dogs. The plant contains calcium oxalates, which can cause irritation to the mouth and digestive system.

14. 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 dogs when chewed or ingested.

15. Wisteria (Wisteria spp.)

- **Toxic Part:** Seeds and pods.
- **Symptoms:** Vomiting, diarrhea, and lethargy.
- **Notes:** Wisteria can cause gastrointestinal distress in dogs when the seeds or pods are consumed.

16. Yew (Taxus spp.)

- **Toxic Part:** All parts of the plant except for the fleshy red berries.
- **Symptoms:** Vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, difficulty breathing, and death.
- **Notes:** Yew contains taxine alkaloids that are toxic to dogs. It can lead to sudden cardiac death in some cases.

17. Morning Glory (Ipomoea spp.)

- **Toxic Part:** Seeds and flowers.
- **Symptoms:** Vomiting, diarrhea, and hallucinations.
- **Notes:** The seeds of the morning glory plant contain compounds that can cause gastrointestinal upset and, in large quantities, neurological symptoms in dogs.

Prevention Tips:

- **Keep Plants Out of Reach:** Place plants in areas that are inaccessible to dogs, especially toxic varieties.
- **Secure Gardens:** Ensure that toxic plants are removed from any areas where dogs have access to prevent accidental ingestion.
- **Educate Others:** Make sure all household members and visitors are aware of which plants are dangerous to pets.
- **Choose Dog-Friendly Plants:** Opt for pet-safe plants like spider plants, Boston ferns, or marigolds instead.

What to Do if Your Dog Ingests a Toxic Plant:

If you suspect your dog has ingested a toxic plant, it's important to act quickly. Contact your veterinarian or an emergency animal poison control helpline (e.g., ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center) for advice. Time is critical, and prompt treatment can make a significant difference in your dog's recovery.

By being vigilant and removing or avoiding toxic plants in your garden and home, you can help keep your dog safe and healthy.