

Before your cat comes home: the plant check

S4 • EMERGENCY

Must go — give these away before the cat arrives

☐ **Azalea**
Rhododendron spp.
Azaleas and rhododendrons are life-threatening to cats (S4 Emergency): the grayanotoxins in every part of the plant can cause vomiting, weakness, low blood pressure, coma, cardiovascular collapse, and death, and the ASPCA warns that eating only a few leaves can cause serious problems.

☐ **Carolina Jessamine**
Gelsemium sempervirens
Carolina jessamine (Gelsemium, also sold as yellow jessamine or Carolina jasmine) is life-threatening to cats (S4 Emergency): Pet Poison Helpline records that all parts of the vine contain neurotoxins that can cause muscle weakness, paralysis, slowed breathing, seizures, and death — it is not a true jasmine.

☐ **Daylily**
Hemerocallis spp.
Daylily plants of the Hemerocallis genus are life-threatening to cats (S4 Emergency): any amount of leaf, stem, flower, pollen, or even vase water can cause acute kidney failure, and death is possible without early treatment — the same danger as true lilies, in a different genus.

☐ **Desert Rose**
Adenium obesum
Desert Rose (Adenium obesum) is toxic to cats (S4 Emergency): the ASPCA records vomiting, diarrhea, anorexia, depression, irregular heart beat, and death.

☐ **Lily**
Lilium spp.
Lily plants of the Lilium genus are life-threatening to cats (S4 Emergency): any amount of leaf, stem, flower, pollen, or even vase water can cause acute kidney failure, and death is possible without early treatment.

☐ **Sago Palm**
Cycas revoluta
Sago palm is life-threatening to cats (S4 Emergency): every part of the plant — the seeds most of all — contains cycasin, and any amount can cause liver failure and death, with symptoms sometimes delayed for hours.

S3 • TOXIC

Out of reach, or out of the house

☐ **Amaryllis**
Amaryllis spp.
Toxin: lycorine and other phenanthridine alkaloids; raphide oxalate crystals (concentrated in the bulbs)

☐ **Brunfelsia**
Brunfelsia spp.
Toxin: brunfelsamidine; hopeanine

☐ **Cyclamen**
Cyclamen spp.
Toxin: terpenoid saponins

☐ **Daffodil**
Narcissus spp.
Toxin: lycorine; other alkaloids

☐ **Dieffenbachia**
Dieffenbachia spp.
Toxin: insoluble calcium oxalates; proteolytic enzyme

☐ **Hyacinth**
Hyacinthus orientalis
Toxin: possibly narcissus-like alkaloids

☐ **Kalanchoe**
Kalanchoe spp.
Toxin: bufadienolides

☐ **Lily of the Valley**
Convallaria majalis
Toxin: cardenolides (convallarin and others)

☐ **Mistletoe**
Phoradendron flavescens
Toxin: toxalbumin, pharatoxin viscumin (lectins, phoratoxins)

☐ **Shamrock**
Oxalis spp.
Toxin: soluble calcium oxalates

☐ **Tomato Plant**
Solanum lycopersicum
Toxin: solanine (glycoalkaloids)

S0 • SAFE

Keep — the ten most-searched plants graded safe for cats

Orchid Rose Spider Plant Money Tree Sunflower Bamboo Rosemary Calathea Boston Fern Hoya

IF IT HAPPENS ANYWAY

Two hotlines, 24/7

ASPCA ANIMAL POISON CONTROL
(888) 426-4435

PET POISON HELPLINE
(855) 764-7661

S4 contact: go to a vet or emergency animal hospital immediately — do not wait for symptoms. Bring a photo or a piece of the plant.

verdapaw.com



Every plant graded S0–S4 for cats and dogs, with its sources. Scan for the full index:
verdapaw.com/guide/cat-safe-plants

Index as of 2026-10-17 • 107 plants graded for cats • Grades transcribed from ASPCA and Pet Poison Helpline • Not veterinary advice