

SPRINGTIME HAZARDS

Protect your Pets From Toxic Plants

Spring has arrived, gardens are showing signs of bloom, and our furry companions are ready to get out into the backyard. While they may be ready to tiptoe through – or dig up – the tulips, there are certain plants and flowers that must remain off limits to your pups and cats. Here are some of the most toxic:

- 1** **Tulips, daffodils, narcissus and hyacinths** – the skin at the bottom of bulb flowers, such as these ones, are especially toxic to dogs.
- 2** **Lilies** – beautiful to look at in a flower bed or as a centerpiece, but common varieties of lilies are highly toxic to cats. The pollen, leaves, stems, and even the water in the vase, can cause kidney failure.
- 3** **Sago Palms** – found indoors and outdoors, this is one of the most dangerous plants to your furry family members, with the seeds being especially toxic. As few as two seeds can have fatal consequences.
- 4** **Begonias** – popular for their dramatic and beautiful blooms, the underground stem can cause serious irritation of the mouth for both dogs and cats.
- 5** **Buttercups** – beware of skipping through the meadow with your furry friend in tow. Snacking on these flowers can cause stomach upset.
- 6** **Crocus** – watch out for the spring crocus in particular as it can cause gastrointestinal issues for cats



It's not just plants and flowers that can cause an issue, it is also important to be mindful of fertilizers – especially organic varieties. These fertilizers often contain bone, blood or feather meal and the smell can be especially alluring to your pup. But beware - ingesting large quantities can obstruct a dog's stomach.

By being mindful of these springtime hazards, you and your pet can enjoy the warmer weather and the beauty and blooms of the season!

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