

Carole Bryant, Naturopath

(ATMS & HATAA accredited)

- nutrition • herbal medicine • homoeopathy • flower essences • iridology • craniosacral balancing • massage
 - manipulative muscle therapy • kinesiology • reflexology • reiki • Theta Healing
 - Thought Field therapy • Neuro-Linguistic programming
- plus for pets: • Tellington TTouch (Companion Animals) practitioner • canine craniosacral balancing
- behavioural dog trainer • Tellington TTouch (Horses) practitioner-in-training

ABN 28 275 787 633

DOG CARE & MANAGEMENT: DANGER IN THE GARDEN

The list of poisonous plants is enormous. Puppies are normally more at risk than older dogs as they tend to play with and chew on anything that catches their interest.

Below is a list of some of the plants and other hazards that are considered poisonous to dogs (not being much of a gardener I hope I have put the various plants into their correct categories!):

Bulbs: daffodil, jonquil, tulip, spider lily, arum lily, nerine, crocus, lily of the valley, amaryllis, hyacinth, narcissus, iris, cyclamen

Flowering plants: sweet pea, poppy, clematis, agapanthus (roots), buttercup, delphinium, hydrangea, bird of paradise, chrysanthemum, foxglove, wisteria, angel's trumpet

Shrubs/trees: oleander (one of the most deadly plants, leaves, flowers, branches/twigs are all deadly poisonous - even smoke from burning plant material is considered poisonous), grevillea (itching – especially Robyn Gordon), azalea, rhododendron, daphne, yesterday-today-tomorrow (*Brunsfelsia*), avocado, oak, yew, rhus, mock orange, rubber plant, weeping fig, poinsettia, English holly

Indoor plants: dieffenbachia (dumb cane), elephant ears, philodendron

Vegetables/fruits: rhubarb (leaves), eggplant (leaves), tomato plants

Seeds: apricot, cherry, peach, apple, cycad, cotoneaster, white cedar

Weeds: castor oil plant, wandering jew (a common cause of itchiness), lantana, radium weed, asthma weed

Grasses: paspalum, rye, buffalo – these can all cause itching with the flowers/seed heads causing the most problems. Keeping grass mown to avoid flowering/seeding will help.

Miscellaneous: ivy, cactus (spines)

Other hazards: spiders, snakes, cane toads, ticks, swimming pools (just like small children, dogs can drown from falling into the family pool and being unable to get out), treated pine timber (never burn treated pine as even the smoke is extremely toxic), snail bait, rat/mouse bait, garden sprays, chemical fertilisers

Webbers Arcade, 133 Prince Street, Grafton, 2460 Ph: 02 66439035
Email: naturopath@berigorafarm.com.au Website: www.berigorafarm.com.au

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However, this doesn't mean you can't enjoy having a garden. It is even possible to enjoy plants known to be poisonous. You just need to make sure your dog doesn't have access to the plants (or the part of the plant that is poisonous).

You could enjoy a wonderful display of spring bulbs in your front garden, knowing that your inquisitive puppy is safely confined to your backyard. If your dog is mature and/or not of a frivolous nature, it may be safe to grow some poisonous plants in parts of the garden that your dog has access to. Alternatively, you could fence off any areas of your dog's yard that contain poisonous plants, or put up temporary fencing if the plants are only toxic at some times (i.e. when fruiting). And of course wear gloves when handling those plants yourself.

However, in the case of extremely poisonous plants like oleander, I personally wouldn't take the risk.

Needless to say, most of the poisonous plants, etc listed above also pose a risk to small inquisitive children who may be tempted to eat attractive berries, put flowers into their mouth, or play with pretty but dangerous plants.

I'm sure there are many more poisonous plants and potential garden hazards. If in doubt, check with your local nursery. Better safe than sorry!

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