

# Pet Health Hazards Abound in Spring—Are You Prepared?

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Spring is just around the corner! Even though it's exciting to finally see color in our yards, it's important to be aware of the potential dangers that spring plants and fertilizers pose to pets.

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## Tulips (*Tulipa* spp.) and hyacinth (*Hyacinthus* spp.)

The toxic principle of these plants is very concentrated in the bulbs. When the plant parts or bulbs are chewed or ingested, it can result in tissue irritation to the mouth and esophagus. Typical signs include profuse drooling, vomiting or diarrhea, depending on the amount consumed. Ingestion of large amounts can result in increased heart rate and changes in respiration.

## Lilies (*Lilium* spp. and *Hemerocallis* spp.)

Many types of lilies are highly toxic to cats. Even small ingestions (such as the pollen, petals or leaves) can result in kidney failure. The most dangerous, potentially fatal varieties include tiger, day, Asiatic, Easter and Japanese show lilies. If you see your cat consuming any part of a lily, bring your cat—and the plant—immediately to a veterinarian.



## Lily of the valley (*Convallaria majalis* spp.)

Ingestion of lily of the valley causes symptoms similar to foxglove ingestion. These symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, drop in heart rate, severe cardiac arrhythmias and possibly seizures.



## Daffodils (*Narcissus* spp.)

Ingestion of the bulb, plant or flower can cause severe vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain and even possible cardiac arrhythmia or respiratory depression. Also, toxins found in the outer layer of the bulbs, similar to hyacinths, can cause severe tissue irritation and drooling.

## Crocus (*Crocus* spp. and *Colchicum* spp.)

Ingestion of spring crocus can cause general gastrointestinal upset including vomiting and diarrhea. Autumn crocus, also known as meadow saffron, is highly toxic and can cause severe vomiting, gastrointestinal bleeding, liver and kidney damage and respiratory failure.



## Fertilizers

Though most fertilizers are not very toxic (resulting in minor gastrointestinal irritation when consumed), some fertilizers can be fatal if ingested. Use caution with blood meal, bone meal, systemic rose and flower care products, pesticides and iron additives.



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