

With spring Marching in, it's time for us all to slow down and smell the pollen, I mean flowers. And with all that new plant growth, let's take a second to discuss some of the less cat-friendly plants around. As with our food discussion, this is by no means a comprehensive list! Please refer to the ASPCA pet poison website or other pet poison hotlines for toxicity information on other specific plants.

**Lilies:** Flowers of the Lilium family are extremely toxic to cats. Even cats licking the plants or having any contact with the pollen (including grooming it off the fur) can cause acute kidney failure. These flowers are big no-nos for any cat household!

**Allium:** Allium species include onions, garlic, shallots, and leeks. All of these can cause hemolytic anemia (breakdown of the red blood cells) if ingested. This includes all parts of the plant, not just the tasty part. Delicious for humans, bad for cats.

**Cannabis:** While not commonly grown in Texas, ingestion of THC-containing plants or products can cause neurological derangement as well as heart and gastrointestinal issues.

**Sago Palm:** A common ornamental palm plant, all parts of this plant are toxic, especially the nuts or seeds. Eating these can cause gastrointestinal issues and liver failure in cats. Luckily cats don't eat them as often as dogs do, but they are still very dangerous for our felines.

**Tulips:** Another classic spring flower, the bulbs of tulips can cause GI symptoms, heart issues, and neurological issues if eaten.

So, before buying that pretty bouquet or plant for the house, please investigate to make sure it's safe if your cat were to get into it. While your cat may never have shown interest in eating plants before, you don't want to learn the hard way that your curious kitty has piqued a new and dangerous interest.

This spring, let's keep your cat safe from plant-based harms and keep us humans safe from pollen-based sneezing! Happy spring and enjoy the allergies, I mean weather!



**Welcome our new resident Fiona! ♥**

