



Photo 1 (Holly) Photos 2 & 3 (Amaryllis) Photos 4 & 5 My Dogs Photo 6 (Mistletoe) Photos 7 & 8 (Poinsettia)

Ahh – To Grow A Garden – So Get Up and Get Growing –Taylorsville City - Tree Of The Month Article – January 2011 - Fall and Winter Holiday Plants Toxic To Dogs, Cats, and Kids - For reference Taylorsville City is USDA Hardiness zone 7A. Curious pets can get into these plants holiday and fall plants and eat them. Before the holidays even begin, I wanted you to see the list of dangerous fall and holiday plants to help keep your dogs, cats, and kids safe. Flowers and plants add beauty to any holiday, and they make great holiday gifts too. But if your family includes pets, you may want to learn which plants are safe and which ones you need to avoid. Here is a list of plants to avoid. Remember that ingesting bulb plants often cause the most severe illnesses. Part of this article is from Dr. Jon's Veterinary web site at <http://www.petplace.com/dogs/fall-and-winter-holiday-plant-toxicity-in-dogs>. The plant legends came from the World of Christmas web page at [www.world of Christmas](http://www.worldofchristmas.com). See my article on Pet Friendly Gardening in June of 2010. The follow is a list of toxic plants on page 1 and not very toxic plants on page 2.

Amaryllis, ingestion can result in vomiting, diarrhea, depression, lack of appetite, tremors, drooling, and abdominal pain.

Autumn Crocus, ingestion of the bulbs results in mouth irritation, bloody vomiting, diarrhea, shock, kidney failure, liver damage, and bone marrow suppression.

American Bittersweet, ingestion results in weakness, vomiting, and seizures.

European Bittersweet, ingestion results in drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, depression, lack of appetite, weakness, confusion, and low heart rate.

Burning Bush, ingestion can result in vomiting, diarrhea, depression, and lack of appetite.

Christmas Rose, ingestion results in abdominal pain, vomiting, bloody diarrhea, and delirium. **The Legend of the Christmas Rose**, on a cold December night, everybody was coming to see their new Savior and brought him all kinds of gifts and presents. The three Wise Men came in with their valuable gifts of myrrh, frankincense, and gold and offered them to the Baby Jesus. At that point of time, a shepherd maiden had come to visit the Christ Child and had reached the door of the stable. However, she was very poor and had nothing to offer the child. She felt helpless and was quietly weeping outside the door. She had searched for flowers all over the countryside, but not even a single bloom was to be found that winter evening. An angel outside the door was watching over her and knew about her fruitless search. He took pity on her and when he saw her head was drooped down in sorrow, he gently brushed aside the snow at her feet, from where a beautiful cluster of waxen white winter roses sprang up with pink tipped petals. Then, he softly whispered in the shepherdess's ear that her Christmas Roses were more valuable than myrrh, frankincense, or gold for they were pure and made of love. The maiden was pleasantly surprised when she heard those words and joyfully gathered the flowers and offered them to the Holy Infant, who smiled at her with gratitude and satisfaction.

Chrysanthemum, ingestion results in vomiting, diarrhea, depression, drooling, and lack of appetite.

Holly, this plant, commonly found around Christmas time, can cause intense vomiting, diarrhea, and mental depression can also occur.

Branching, English, and Glacier Ivy are all considered toxic. The Legend of the Ivy, say it symbolizes eternity and resurrection. The ivy leaf has been associated with the Egyptian God Osiris, and the Greco-Roman God Attis. Legends claim that they were both resurrected from the dead.

Mistletoe, this plant, another Christmas plant, can also cause significant vomiting, and diarrhea. In addition, this plant has been associated with difficulty breathing, slowed heart rate, collapse and, if a lot is ingested, death can occur. Some animals may even show erratic behavior and possible hallucinations. **The Legend of Mistletoe**, say it has been associated with love and peace for ages. Hundred years before the birth of Christ, mistletoe was used by Druids in the celebration of winter season who believed in the magic of mistletoe. The custom of using mistletoe to decorate houses at Christmas dates back to the time of the Druids and the concept of the kissing under the mistletoe is a variation of the kissing ball a tradition of the 18th century.

Jerusalem cherry, ingestion results in vomiting, diarrhea, mouth ulcers, seizures, mental depression, respiratory depression, shock, and death.

Christmas Cactus, Thanksgiving Cactus, Easter Cactus, in dogs, if large quantities of this plant are ingested, bloody vomiting, bloody diarrhea, and mental depression can occur. With small ingestions, typically there are no signs of toxicity. These plants are considered low toxicity plants. Some other non toxic winter holiday plants include:

Christmas Palm, this plant is considered nontoxic.

Christmas Orchid, this plant is considered nontoxic.

Christmas Dagger Fern, this plant is considered nontoxic.

Mistletoes Cactus, this plant is considered nontoxic.

Christmas Trees, these plants are considered nontoxic. **The Legend of Christmas Trees,** is that one winter, when the birds were all leaving for southern and warmer areas, one little bird broke her wing on the way and was left behind. Soon frost and snow covered the forest and she was cold and hungry. So she asked the trees to help her and let her stay in their branches. However, the trees are not always kind. The birch tree was proud of being beautiful and haughtily replied to the bird's pleas by saying that he could not possibly help her because he had to look after the birds of the forest first. The strong oak tree was reluctant because it was afraid that the bird would have to live there till spring time and would eat up some of its acorns. Even the willow tree that seemed to be gentle otherwise refused to help. The poor bird was in much distress and tried to fly some more but her wing was still not fit for the purpose. Seeing her struggling like this, the spruce tree asked her, why she seems so sad. When the bird revealed her miseries, it offered her the thickest, softest, and warmest branches to stay in. The bird was really glad to find some help. Inspired by the kindness of the spruce tree the big strong pine tree also volunteered to protect the spruce tree and the bird through the winter from the strong North winds. The little juniper tree also piped in to offer its berries to the bird to quench her hunger. So, the bird lived comfortably there and flew away again at springtime, when her wing had healed. The Frost King, who kept close note of the behavior of all trees, strictly instructed the North Wind not to touch even a single leaf of the kind spruce, pine, and juniper trees; while he was free to play havoc with the leaves of other trees. The North Wind especially enjoyed in plucking the shining, green leaves of the willow, oak, and other trees leaving them bare for the winter, with nothing to protect them from the snow, rain, and sleet. It is for this kindness that the leaves of the spruce, the pine, and the juniper are always green and they are known as evergreen trees. Evergreens were a symbol of rebirth from ancient times.

Poinsettia, this plant can cause irritation to the mouth and stomach and sometimes vomiting. It has a low level of toxicity and is overrated as a toxic plant. Many people consider it basically non-toxic. It is a beautiful, red, star-shaped flower, the blooming season of which coincides with the Christmas season. It is considered as one of the favorite flowers of Christmas. **The Legend of the Poinsettia,** according to a tale a girl and her brother were very poor and couldn't buy any gifts for Baby Jesus in the manger. So they took some weeds they found on their way and planted them around the manger. Miraculously the green top leaves of the weeds turned into bright red petals, and soon the manger was surrounded by beautiful star-like flowers and so we see them today. In some places, it is also said that the poinsettias symbolizes the 'Star' of Bethlehem. It is also known as 'Flame Leaf' or 'Flower of the Holy Night'.

Sage, this plant is considered nontoxic. **The Legend of the Sage Plant,** it is said that King Herod was outraged when he heard that the ancient prophecy of birth of the Messiah and future king of the Jews in his country. Since he didn't know where to find Baby Jesus and kill him, he ordered his soldiers find and kill all the children under the age of two. However, angels had already warned Joseph in a dream about the forthcoming disaster and he rushed off with Mary and Baby Jesus from Bethlehem to cross the borders of the kingdom of Judea and escape to Egypt. The distance was long and people were afraid of the strangers so none came out to help them or offered them shelter or even water. Joseph and Mary strived to get away from Judea while hiding from Herod's mercenaries. Once during the journey, Mary couldn't just go on without some water, and the donkey was thirsty as well. So they stopped on the roadside where Mary and the Holy Child waited while Joseph went to the nearest village to get some water for them to drink. Suddenly, Mary heard shouts, cries, and the noise of the approaching horses' hooves. Her heart trembled with fear, and knew if Herod's soldiers caught her, they would cut the throat of the baby. There was not a cave or a tree nearby, where she could hide. She was desperate for a refuge. Seeing a rose bush nearby, the Virgin Mary requested a place to hide. The Rose proudly refused to offer her any help, for fear of being crushed by the soldiers. Ever since then, rose has had thorns on it. Mary rushed then to a clove bush nearby for help as it had plenty of flowers to hide her and the infant, but the clove refused saying she was too busy putting up blooms. Since then, clove has had ill-smelling flowers. The only bush that remained was the Sage plant. Sage was kind and charitable when the Virgin approached her with a request to hide her and the baby, it readily blossomed abundantly and created a canopy for the Mother and the Child. The soldiers passed by them, without suspecting a thing. Since that time, the sage plant is considered sacred and is believed to possess many curative powers.



Photos 9, 10, 11, and 12 (Blue Spruce)

Photo13 (Sage) Photos 14, 15, 16, and 17 (Junipers)

Photo 18 (miniature Pine)