

[Foods & Plants That Can be Toxic For Birds](#)

Foods & Plants That Can be Toxic For Birds

[Bird Health Care](#) ... [Safe Foods](#)

[First Aid Instructions](#)

In a life-and-death situation when every minute counts for an animal, you can call the **ASPCA National Animal Poison Control Center** for 24-hour emergency information at 888-4ANI-HELP (888-426-4435).

Toxic: [Toxic Household Products](#) ... [Toxic Carpeting](#) ... [Teflon Poisoning](#) ... [Dangerous Air Filtration Systems](#)

Safe / Healthy: [Safe Alternatives for Toxic Household Cleaners](#) ... [Natural Pest Control](#) ... [Air Filtration Systems](#)

The below is not a complete list. It is recommended that you consult with a vet, if in doubt.

Please note that the items marked with an* are especially toxic to birds and can be fatal. Toxic foods are foods that can cause allergies and/or health problems in birds. Anything high in sugar or salt is inappropriate, as are fatty foods. More serious are things such as chocolate, which is toxic to many pets. Caffeinated or alcoholic beverages are also dangerous. I provided additional information as was available.

Acorns	Hellebore
	Hemlock
	Henbane
	Honeysuckle
	Horsebeans
Agave , Maguey, Bayonet, Agavaceae Toxic Principle: Sap from the leaves, Seeds, Calcium oxalate raphides, Acrid volatile oils, Mechanically injurious Clinical Signs: Oral mucosa irritation, Contact urticaria, Skin: Immediate burning, erythema, urticaria, and	Horsebrush
	Horse Chestnut
	Hyacinth bulbs
	*Hydrangea
	Iris corms

edema, Granuloma reaction from punctures by leaves

Alcohol

Almond Plants / Seeds / plant-pan allergen profilin can cause serious reaction in some birds: Generally all plants of the Prunus genus EXCEPT the pulp of the fruit contain amygdalin or related glycosides which are slowly hydrolyzed to hydrocyanic acid. Some allergic reactions to [almond nuts](#) have been observed.

Alocasia

Amaryllis: Clinical Signs: Can cause vomiting, diarrhea, depression, appetite loss, tremors, drooling and abdominal pain

Angel's Trumpet (some species), seeds, leaves

Apple Seeds (small quantities ok)

*Apricot (seeds, wood)

Arrowgrass

*Autumn Crocus

Asparagus Fern - Sprenger's Fern, Lace Fern
- **Toxic Principle:** Non-toxic, Berries, Sapogenins, Foliage **Clinical Signs:** Dermatitis, Irritant, Cardiac, sedative, and diuretic effects

Autumn Crocus/Meadow - Saffron

*Avocado (any part of the plant -- including flesh, leaves, seeds, stem, skin)

Azaleas: Can cause weakness, upset stomach, drooling, heart failure, depression and possible coma

Baneberry

Bayonet

Beans: Broad, Castor, Glory, Fava, Horse,

Iris Ivy

*Jack-in-the-pulpit

Japanese Yew

Java Beans

Jessamine

Jerusalem Cherry

*Jimson weed

Jonquil

Jungle Trumpets

Kalanchoe aka Florist's Kalanchoe, Kalanchoe, Palm Beach Belle **Toxic Principle:**

Isoprene alkaloids, Cardiac glycosides, Cardiac bufadienolides, Bryotoxins, Non-toxic maybe - **Clinical Signs:** Labored respiration, Cardio-toxic effects, Excessive salivation, Digestive disturbance, Loss of interest in food and water

*Lantana

Larkspur

Laurel

Lily

Lily-of-the-Valley

Lily Spider

Lobelia (some species), all parts

Locoweed

Lupine species

Malanga

Marigold

*Milkweed

*Mistletoe Berries: A Christmas plant, ingestion can cause significant vomiting and diarrhea, difficulty breathing, collapse, erratic behavior, hallucinations and death.

Mescal, Navy, Pregator, Scarlet Runner) -
Large Beans: such as Anasazi, Black, Fava,
Kidney, Lima, Navy, Pinto, and Soy - should
never be fed raw. However, thoroughly
cooked are safe and healthy.

Beargrass

*Begonia

Bird of Paradise

Bitter Almonds*

Bittersweet

Black-eyed Susan

Black Locust (Robinia pseudoacacia)

*Bleeding Heart

Bluebonnet

Bloodrot

Box

Boxwood

Bracken fern

Buckeye

Buckthorn

Burning Bush

Buttercup (Ranunculus)

Caffeine

*Caladium

*Calla Lily

Canada Yew

Candelabra

Cactus

*Castor Beans: Common Name: Castor Bean,
Castor, Castor Oil Plant, palma Christi,
Wonder Tree, Higuierilla, Steadfast **Toxic
Principle:** Leaves, Seeds, Ricin, Ricinin
Clinical Signs: Decrease blood pressure,
Hypothermia, Decrease in [blood glucose](#),
Increase in serum hepatic enzymes: AST,
ALT, LDH, Increase in BUN, calcium,
phosphorous, Upset Stomach, Vomitting,
Abdominal Pain, Nausea, Diarrhea, Anorexia,
Trembling, Weakness, Sudden Collapse,
[Seizures](#), Exercise intolerance, Ataxia, Slight

Mock Orange

Monkshood

*Morning Glory

Mountain Laurel

Mushrooms

Narcissus, daffodil

Nettles

Nectarine (seeds, wood)

Nightshade

*Oak

Oleander aka Rosa Laurel

Toxic Principle: Seeds, Vase
water, Whole plant, Smoke
from burning, Cardioactive
glycosides **Clinical Signs:**
may cause diarrhea, nausea,
vomiting, slowing of heart-
rate, abnormal heart beat
patterns, heart failure and
possible death.

*Onions (toxic to birds, small
amount ok)

[Peace Lilly](#)

*Peach (seeds, wood)

*Pencil cactus plant

Peony

Periwinkle

Peyote Cactus

Philodendron aka Sweetheart
Plant, Heart-leaf

Philodendron, Parlor Ivy

Toxic Principle:

Nephrotoxic, Entire Plant,
Leaves, Oxalates, Calcium
oxalate **Clinical Signs:**

Dermatitis, Excessive
salivation, Red and swollen
oral cavity, Pain, swelling,
irritation to throat, Irritation
and burning of mouth, lips,
and tongue

Depression, Copious thick, ropy salivation,
Thirsty

Catnip Common Name: Catmint, Catnip

Toxic Principle: Volatile oil **Clinical Signs:**
Odd behavior, Drowsiness, Disorientation

Cedar

Ceriman

Cherry (seeds, wood)

Chinaberry

*Chinese Sacred or Heavenly Bamboo

Chocolate

*Choke Cherry (unripe berries)

Christmas Rose

Chrysanthemum: Results in vomiting,
diarrhea, depression, drooling and appetite
loss. Causes allergies in humans as it is a
ragweed relative.

Clematis

Coriander

Coriaria

Cornflower

Corydalis

Crocus bulb

Croton (Codiaeum sp.)

Crown of Thorns aka Christ Plant, Christ
Thorn, Crown of Thorns **Toxic Principle:**
Miliamines, Terpenes, Diterpenes, Alkaloidal
esters of diterpenoid ingenol, Stems: the
juice, leaves, and thorns **Clinical Signs:** Eye
irritation, Vomiting, Skin irritation, Diarrhea,
Irritation to gastrointestinal tract

Curry Powder

Cyclamen bulb

Daffodil / Bulbs: **Clinical Signs:** Can cause
severe gastrointestinal illness, convulsions,
[seizures](#), low blood pressure and tremors.

Daphne

Datura

Pimpernel

Plum (seeds, wood)

Poinciana

Poinsettia: Clinical Signs:

Can cause irritation to the
mouth and stomach and
sometimes vomiting

Poison Ivy

Poison Oak

Pokeweed

Poppy

Potato (green seed balls,
green tubers; plant, leaves
and stem)

Precatory beans

Privet

Rhododendron

*Rhubarb: Rhubarb leaves
are poisonous but the edible
rhubarb stalks are safe.

*Rosary Pea

[Rubber Plant](#)

Schefflera aka Umbrella

Tree, Starleaf, Australian

Umbrella Tree **Toxic**

Principle: Entire Plant,
Saponins, Falcarinol,

Calcium oxalate, Oxalic acid

Clinical Signs: Dermatitis,
Vomiting, Leukopenia, Loss
of coordination, Irritation of
mouth, lips, and tongue

Scotch Broom

*Shamrock (Oxalis sp.)

Skunk Cabbage

Snowdrops

Snow-on-the-Mountain

Spindle Tree, Euonymus

(some species), leaves, fruit,
bark

Spreading English Yew

Deadly Nightshade
Death Camas

*Delphinium, larkspur, monkshood

Dicentra
Dieffenbachia

Dumb Cane aka Dumb Plant, Dumb Cane, Mother-in-law's Tongue Plant **Toxic**

Principle: Histamine poisoning, All parts: leaves, stems, sap, Proteolytic enzymes, Calcium oxalate crystals, Other toxins

Clinical Signs: Swelling of throat, Impairment of speech, Excessive salivation, Pain and swelling of mouth, Skin rashes

Easter Lily

Eggplant: The leaves of the plant on which the eggplant fruit grows are poisonous, but the fruit itself is said to be safe. Some sources caution of overly ripe or under-ripe eggplant fruit.

Elderberry (unripe berries)
Elephant Ear

[English Ivy](#)

Fava Beans
Fig (Ficus)
Euonymus
Evergreen Ferns
Ficus

Fiddle-leaf Philodendron aka Tree Philodendron, Cut-leaf Philodendron **Toxic**
Principle: Nephrotoxic, Entire Plant, Leaves, Oxalates, Calcium oxalate **Clinical Signs:** Dermatitis, Excessive salivation, Red and swollen oral cavity, Pain, swelling, irritation to throat, Irritation and burning of mouth, lips, and tongue

Holly: Commonly found during the Christmas season, can cause intense vomiting, diarrhea and depression.

Flax ?? (Controversial - This may be the case in large quantities - consult with your vet)

Spurge (Euphorbia sp.)
Staggerweed
Starleaf
Star of Bethlehem

Sweet Pea - *Lathyrus latifolius* - L.: Although no records of toxicity have been found for this plant, the seed of some species in this genus contain a toxic amino acid that can cause a severe disease of the nervous system known as 'lathyrism' if they are eaten in large amounts (although small quantities are said to be nutritious). Great caution is advised. Ref. www.pfaf.org

Tansy Mustard
Tobacco
Tomatoes (leaves and stem)
Tuffroot

Tulip: **Clinical Symptoms:** Can cause intense vomiting, depression, diarrhea, drooling and appetite loss.

Virginia Creeper
Walnut hulls
Water Arum

[Weeping Fig](#)

Wild Call Wisteria
Wild Calla
Wisteria
Yellow Calla

*Yew

Yucca aka Spineless Yucca, Soapweed, Spanish Bayonet
Toxic Principle: Spines, Furostanols, Leaves, Saponins [steroidal], Spirostanols – sarsasapogenin **Clinical**

Signs: Vomiting, Bloat,
Diarrhea, Nausea,
Mechanical damage

[Zamioculcas](#) - an indoor
plant. All parts of the plant are
poisonous if ingested.

Related Resources: [Indiana Toxic Plants](#) ... Veterinary Medicine Library

Unsafe Plants / Fruits and Trees

Below is a list of indoor and outdoor plants and trees which are hazardous to birds. It has been gathered from various sources and is not complete.

Below is a listing of unsafe plants, fruits and trees.

Agave, Maguey, Bayonet, Agavaceae

Toxic Principle: Sap from the leaves,
Seeds, Calcium oxalate raphides, Acrid
volatile oils, Mechanically injurious

Clinical Signs: Oral mucosa irritation,
Contact urticaria, Skin: Immediate
burning, erythema, urticaria, and
edema, Granuloma reaction from
punctures by leaves

Alacia

Amaryllis: Clinical Signs: Can cause
vomiting, diarrhea, depression, appetite
loss, tremors, drooling and abdominal
pain

American Yew

Apricot

Asparagus Fern - Sprenger Fern,
Lace Fern - **Toxic Principle:** Non-toxic,

Japanese Yew - needles, seeds

Jasmine

Java Bean - lima bean - uncooked

Jimsonweed/Thornapple

Jerusalem Cherry - berries

Johnson Grass

Juniper - needles, stems, berries

Kalanchoe aka Florist's

Kalanchoe, Kalanchoe, Palm

Beach Belle **Toxic Principle:**

Isoprene alkaloids, Cardiac
glycosides, Cardiac bufadienolides,
Bryotoxins, Non-toxic maybe

Clinical Signs: Labored
respiration, Cardio-toxic effects,
Excessive salivation, Digestive
disturbance, Loss of interest in food
and water

Kentucky Coffee Tree

Lantana - immature berries

Larkspur

Laurel

Lily of the Valley - also water the
plant is in

Lobelia

Locoweed

Berries, Sapogenins, Foliage **Clinical**

Signs: Dermatitis, Irritant, Cardiac, sedative, and diuretic effects

Autumn Crocus/Meadow - Saffron
Avocado

Azaleas: Can cause weakness, upset stomach, drooling, heart failure, depression and possible coma

Balsam Pear - seeds, outer rind of fruit

Baneberry - berries, root

Beans - all types if uncooked

Birch

Bird of Paradise - seeds

Bittersweet Nightshade

Black Locust - bark, sprouts, foliage

Bloodroot

Blue-green Algae - some forms toxic

Boxwood - leaves, stems

Bracken Fern

Broomcorn Grass

Buckthorn - fruit, bark

Buttercup - sap, bulbs

Caladium - leaves

Calla Lily - leaves

Candelabra Tree

Cardinal Flower-

*Castor Beans: Common Name: Castor Bean, Castor, Castor Oil Plant, palma Christi, Wonder Tree, Higuera, Higuera,

Steadfast **Toxic Principle:** Leaves, Seeds, Ricin, Ricinin **Clinical Signs:** Decrease blood pressure, Hypothermia, Decrease in [blood glucose](#), Increase in serum hepatic enzymes: AST, ALT, LDH, Increase in BUN, calcium, phosphorous, Upset Stomach, Vomiting, Abdominal Pain, Nausea, Diarrhea, Anorexia, Trembling, Weakness, Sudden Collapse, [Seizures](#), Exercise intolerance, Ataxia, Slight Depression, Copious thick, ropy salivation, Thirsty

Catnip Common Name: Catmint, Catnip **Toxic Principle:** Volatile oil **Clinical**

Lords and

Ladies/Cuckoopint

Lupines/Bluebonnet

mahogany - varying degrees of toxicity between the different varieties. Splinters easily. Not suitable for perches.

Mandrake

Mango Tree - wood, leaves, rind - fruit safe

Mayapple - fruit is safe

Mescal Beans - seeds

*Mistletoe Berries: A Christmas plant, ingestion can cause significant vomiting and diarrhea, difficulty breathing, collapse, erratic behavior, hallucinations and death.

Mock Orange - fruit

Monkshood/Aconite - leaves, root

Moonseed

Morning Glory

Mountain Laurel

Mushrooms - several varieties

Narcissus - bulbs

Nectarine

Nettles

Nightshade - all varieties

Nutmeg, nectar

Oak - acorns, foliage

Oleander aka Rosa Laurel **Toxic Principle:** Seeds, Vase water, Whole plant, Smoke from burning, Cardioactive glycosides **Clinical Signs:** may cause diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, slowing of heart-rate, abnormal heart beat patterns, heart failure and possible death.

Parsnip root contains three photoactive, mutagenic, and photocarcinogenic psoralens in a total concentration of about 40 parts per million. These chemicals are not destroyed by normal cooking procedures. Data about the

Signs: Odd behavior, Drowsiness, Disorientation

Cedar

Chalice Vine/Trumpet vine

Cherry Tree - bark, twigs, leaves, pits

Chinaberry Tree

Christmas Candle - sap

Clematis/Virginia Bower

Coral Plant - seeds

Coriander

Cowslip/Marsh Marigold

Crown of Thorns aka Christ Plant, Christ Thorn, Crown of Thorns **Toxic**

Principle: Miliamines, Terpenes, Diterpenes, Alkaloidal esters of diterpenoid ingenol, Stems: the juice, leaves, and thorns **Clinical Signs:** Eye irritation, Vomiting, Skin irritation, Diarrhea, Irritation to gastrointestinal tract

Croton

Curry Powder

Daffodil / Bulbs: **Clinical Signs:** Can cause severe gastrointestinal illness, convulsions, [seizures](#), low blood pressure and tremors.

Daphne - berries

Datura - berries

Deadly Amanita

Death Camas

Delphinium

Dumb Cane aka Dumb Plant, Dumb Cane, Mother-in-law's Tongue **Toxic Principle:** Histamine poisoning, All parts: leaves, stems, sap, Proteolytic enzymes, Calcium oxalate crystals, Other toxins **Clinical Signs:** Swelling of throat, Impairment of speech, Excessive salivation, Pain and swelling of mouth, Skin rashes

Eggplant - fruit okay / leaves toxic

toxicologic consequences of such exposure are not available.

Peach

Peanuts - raw: (Peanuts are often contaminated with aflatoxin, a fungal toxin. Aflatoxin is carcinogenic and causes liver damage in birds, other animals, and even humans. Roasting reduces aflatoxin but does not eliminate it entirely. North American peanut producers are currently working on eliminating contaminated peanuts from their products. Especially peanuts with dark spots on them should be considered suspect, but even those that look clean and perfect could possibly be contaminated.)

Pencil Tree

Periwinkle-

Persimmon: Has high levels of tannins and should best be avoided. Even though birds regularly feed on vegetation high in tannins, it is unclear how safe it is for them. Also: unripe persimmons can cause digestive issues.

Philodendron aka Sweetheart Plant, Heart-leaf Philodendron, Parlor Ivy **Toxic Principle:** **Nephrotoxic**, Entire Plant, Leaves, Oxalates, Calcium oxalate **Clinical Signs:** Dermatitis, Excessive salivation, Red and swollen oral cavity, Pain, swelling, irritation to throat, Irritation and burning of mouth, lips, and tongue

Pigweed

Pikeweed

Pine needles - berries

Plum

Pointsetta - leaves, roots, immature

Elderberry
Elephants Ear/Taro - leaves, stem
English Ivy berries, leaves
English Yew
Euonymus/Spindle Tree
False Hellebore
False Henbane
Ficus (weeping)

Fiddle-leaf Philodendron aka Tree
Philodendron, Cut-leaf Philodenron
Toxic Principle: Nephrotoxic, Entire
Plant, Leaves, Oxalates, Calcium
oxalate **Clinical Signs:** Dermatitis,
Excessive salivation, Red and swollen
oral cavity, Pain, swelling, irritation to
throat, Irritation and burning of mouth,
lips, and tongue

Firethorn/Pyracantha
Fly Agaric Mushroom
Deadly Amanita
Four O'Clock
Foxglove - leaves, seeds
Golden Chain/Laburnum
Glory Bean
Ground Cherry
Hemlock - including the water the plant
is in
Henbane - seeds

Holly: Commonly found during the
Christmas season, can cause intense
vomiting, diarrhea and depression.

Honey Locust
Honeysuckle
Horse Chestnut/Buckeye - nuts, twigs
Horsetail
Hyacinth - bulbs
Hydrangea - flower bud
Indian Licorice Bean
Indian Turnip/Jack-in-Pulpit
Iris/Blue Flag - bulbs
Ivy
Jack-in-the-Pulpit

Jade Plant, Jade Tree, Dollar Plant,
leaves are toxic. Clinical Signs:

Poison Ivy - sap
Poison Oak - sap
Pomegranates (root / bark of the
Pomegranate)
Pokeweed/Inkberry - leaf, root,
young berries
Potato - eyes, new shoots

[Pothos](#) (Golden Ivy)

Privet
Prune
Rain Tree
Ranunculus/Buttercup
Red Cedar
Red Maple
Red Oak
Rhododendron
Rhubarb - leaves (edible stalks
fine)
Rosary Peas/Indian
Licorice - seeds
Sandbox Tree
Scarlet Runner Beans

Schefflera aka Umbrella Tree,
Starleaf, Australian Umbrella Tree
Toxic Principle: Entire Plant,
Saponins, Falcarinol, Calcium
oxalate, Oxalic acid **Clinical Signs:**
Dermatitis, Vomiting, Leukopenia,
Loss of coordination, Irritation of
mouth, lips, and tongue

Skunk Cabbage
Snowdrop
Snowflake
Snow on the Mountain / Ghostweed
Sorghum Grass
Sorrel
Sudan Grass
Sweet Pea - seeds, fruit
Tansy Ragwort
Tobacco - leaves
Vetch
Virginia Creeper - sap
Water Hemlock
Western Yew
Wisteria

Digestive upset, Nausea

Four-o'clocks (Mirabilis)

Foxglove (Digitalis)

***Garlic** (safe for birds in **SMALL** amounts)

Golden Glow

Gopher Purge

Yam bean - roots, immature roots

Yello Jasmine

Yew (Amer,Engl,Japan) - needles, thistles

Yucca aka Spineless Yucca, Soapweed, Spanish Bayonet;

Toxic Principle: Spines, Furostanols, Leaves, Saponins [steroidal], Spirostanols – sarsasapogenin; **Clinical Signs:** Vomiting, Bloat, Diarrhea, Nausea, Mechanical damage

[Zamioculcas](#) - an indoor plant. All parts of the plant are poisonous if ingested.

Related Resources: Indiana Plants: Veterinary Medicine Library

Unsafe Wood / Not Recommended for Perches

Below is a list of indoor and outdoor plants and trees which are considered hazardous to birds. It has been gathered from various sources and is not complete. Opinions differ, which made research rather confusing. If in doubt, discuss with your vet.

Apple (controversial - some say it's safe. Refer to above. Discuss with your vet)

Nectarine

Apricot

Peach

Arbutus

Plum

Ash (Mountain Ash is listed as safe on many lists)

Prune (Controversial again - sometimes listed as toxic, other times as safe - discuss with vet)

Cherry (controversial - some say it's safe. Refer to above. Discuss with your vet)

Red Cedar

[Safe Woods](#)

Species Research by [Sibylle Johnson](#)

For updates please [follow BeautyOfBirds on Google+](#) (google.com/+Avianweb)

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