

TOXICITY OF PLANTS TO POT-BELLIED PIGS

by Joyce Johnston

A quick and easy guide

As many of us have pigs which we take with us to lots of different places, it is imperative to know the major plant toxicity's to pigs. The problem with this is many of the less common poisonous plants are not listed, and also there are some plants such as a Camellia which are not listed as toxic because they are not poisonous to humans and yet will kill a pig due to the high content of caffeine.

If you have any doubts about a plant, there is a 24hour National Animal Poison Control number at the University of Illinois, Veterinary Toxicology Department, (800) 548 2423. They charge a flat fee of \$25.00 each time you call, but it is well worth it when it can save the life of your pig which they did for me.

This is the most complete and extensive center in the U.S. on toxic plants to animals, and there is a veterinarian there at all times you can talk with.

One of the major concerns is oak leaves and acorns, especially in spring when they are green and budding. They contain the toxin "tannin," which accumulates in the pig's system and causes permanent kidney damage which eventually ends in death.

Also, you need to be aware of the danger of pine needles, which have their greatest toxicity in winter. They cause abortion easily with excessive bleeding from the uterus. Everyone already knows of the toxicity of poinsettias and mistletoe (especially the berries).

However, pigs are said to survive through eating mistletoe better than other animals.

The best thing to do if you know your pig has ingested a poisonous plant is to immediately give it about 7 ml. of hydrogen peroxide. If you mix it in a strong tasting juice (like grape or cranberry) the pigs will drink enough of it to vomit within several minutes. Ipecac Syrup will not work in pigs and will not cause them to purge. Otherwise, get them to the vet for a heavy dose of charcoal and antitoxins.

Keeping your pigs regularly vaccinated with Clostridium will also help to prevent sickness from overeating in general. In addition, if they get into the pig chow and indulge, that can also be fatal. They will either need to be made to vomit, or you must get them immediately to the vet for an antitoxin. Otherwise, they will get severe toxemia in a few days and die.

The following list of plants is divided into four groups: extremely toxic; minor toxicity's; oxalates (cause pain and swelling of the mouth and throat); and food leaves. It is advisable to purchase a poisonous plant book and learn the scientific names of the groups of plants that are poisonous.

Toxicity of Plants to Potbellied Pigs

EASY REFERENCE GUIDE

EXTREMELY TOXIC (one leaf can kill them)	Delphinium	Morning Glory	MINOR TOXICITIES (vomiting, diarrhea, nausea)	Ranunculus	FOOD LEAVES Tomato leaves and vine Avocado Moldy Walnut shells Rhubarb Corn stems (nitrates) Cotton seeds Decayed Sweet Potato (black parts) Potato leaves and green parts Rosacea Family (leaves and seeds): apple, apricot, pear, peach, almond nectarine, cherry plum.
	Elderberry	Mountain Laurel		Sweet Pea	
Flax	Narcissis	Oleander	Sweet William	Violas	
Foxglove	Nightshade	Pea family	Aloe Vera		
Four o'clocks	Oleander	Pig weed	Amaryllis		
Azalea and Rhododendron	Geranium	Potato plant	Bird of Paradise	OXALATES (pain and swelling of mouth and throat; swollen tissue can cause restriction and breathing difficulties and death from suffocation.)	
Black Acacia and Locust	Heavenly Bamboo	Privet	Birch		
Bleeding Heart	Hemlock	String of Pearls	Boxwood		
Camellia Jerusalem	Holly Berries	Thorn Apple	Cedar		
Camation	Ivy	Toyon	Chrysanthemum		
Carolina Jasmine	Cherry	Tulip	Daffodil		
Castor Beans	Lantana	Vinca	Daisy		
Christmas Rose (roots)	Larkspur	Wintergreen	Eucalyptus	Begonia	
China Berry	Licorice Plant	Wisteria	Gladiola	Caladium	
Clementis	Lily of the Valley and Fasteer Lily	Yew	Hydrangea	Calla Lily	
Coffee Tree Plant	Lobelia		Hyacinth	Diffenbachia	
Cyclamen	Lupine		Iris	Dumbcane	
Daohne	Milkvetch and Milkweed		Juniper	Jack in the Pulpit	
	Monkshood		Redwood tree	Philodendron	
				Schefflera	

Note: the above article was from a potbellied pig magazine in 1991. New Info: for any animal poison-related emergency, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year - if you think that your pet may have ingested a potentially poisonous substance, call (888) 426-4435. A \$65 consultation fee may be applied to your credit card, but you will be given a case # and you can call back as many times as needed at no charge if related to the same case. More info: <http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/poison-control>

Toxic Plants -- Beware! Some household and yard plants may be toxic to your potbellied pig. Be careful when allowing your pig around the following plants. This list is not exhaustive.

<p>Aloe Vera Amaryllis Apple (seeds) Apple Leaf Croton Apricot (pit) Asparagus Fern Autumn Crocus Avacado (fruit and pit) Azalea</p>	<p>Baby's Breath Bird of Paradise Bittersweet Branching Ivy Buckey Buddist Pine</p>	<p>Caladium Calla Lily Castor Bean Ceriman Charming Dieffenbachia Cherry (seeds and wilting leaves) Chinese Evergreen Christmas Rose Cineraria Clematis Cordatum Corn Plant Cornstalk Plant Croton Cuban Laurel Cutleaf Philodendron Cycads Cyclamen</p>	<p>Daffodil Devil's Ivy Dieffenbachia Dracaena Palm Dragon Tree Dumb Cane</p>	<p>Easter Lily (especially in cats!!!!) Elaine Elephant Ears Emerald Feather English Ivy</p>
<p>Geranium German Ivy Giant Dumb Cane Glacier Ivy Gold Dieffenbachia Gold Dust Dracaena Golden Pothos</p>	<p>Hahn's Self-Branching Ivy Heartland Philodendron Hurricane Plant</p>	<p>Indian Rubber Plant</p>	<p>Janet Craig Dracaena Japanese Show Lily (especially cats !!!) Jeusalem Cherry</p>	<p>Kalanchoe Lacy Tree Philodendron</p>
<p>Madagascar Dragon Tree Marble Queen Marijuana Mexican Breadfruit Miniature Croton Mistletoe Morning Glory Mother-in Law's Tongue</p>	<p>Narcissus Needlepoint Ivy Nephtis Nightshade</p>	<p>Oleander Onion Oriental Lily (especially in cats!!!)</p>	<p>Peace Lily Peach (wilting leaves and pits) Pencil Cactus Plumosa Fern Poinsettia (low toxicity) Poison Ivy Poison Oak Pothos Precatory Bean Primrose</p>	<p>Red Emerald Red Princess Red-Margined Dracaena Rhododendron Ribbon Plant</p>
<p>Taro Vine Tiger Lily (especially cats!!!) Tomato Plant (green fruit, stem and leaves) Tree Philodendron Tropic Snow Dieffenbachia</p>	<p>Weeping Fig</p>	<p>Yew</p>		

Note: the above list is compliments of NWMPA (Northwest Miniature Pig Association)