

**Toxicity Concerns for Plants Covered in
How to Select Rain Garden Plants Webinar on 022725**

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ASPCA.org is a great source of information related to toxicity of plants for pets, University of North Carolina Gardener's Toolbox (UNC) <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu> includes toxicity information for pets, horses and people, American Medical Association (AMA) Handbook of Poisonous Plants, and other University and Poison Control Centers resources.

Be aware that none of the sites list every plant. Just because it does not appear on their toxicity list don't assume it is not nontoxic. It is always best to use the botanical name when searching and check with your veterinarian and medical professional. I find ASPCA uses less common (at least to me) names so look at the pictures and double check the botanical name. Also, many plants have undergone name changes so keep this in mind when doing your research.

I found these article you may find helpful or at least interesting

- Potentially Harmful Perennials <https://www.uvm.edu/~pass/perry/oh63harm.html>
Included quite a few native plants – focus on people may or may not apply to pets

Resources they referenced

- *AMA Handbook of Poisonous and Injurious Plants*, 1985, American Medical Association, Chicago.
- *Human Poisoning from Native and Cultivated Plants*, 1974, 2nd ed., James Hardin and Jay Arena, Duke University Press, Durham, NC.
- *Poisonous Plants of the United States and Canada*, 1964, John Kingsbury, Prentice Hall.
- *Poisonous Plants of the United States*, 1961, W.C. Muenscher, MacMillan.
- *Poisonous Plants in Britain and Ireland*, 1996, interactive CD rom, Direct Media, 10 Market St., Lewes BN7 2NB UK.
- *Plant Finder*, 1997, HTA listing, interactive CD rom, same address as last.
- Pennsylvania State University – focus on human toxicity
<https://extension.psu.edu/not-so-nice-native-plants>
- Colorado State University – focus on livestock – may or may not relate to pets
<https://animalrangeextension.montana.edu/beef/documents/NutrConf2012-7-TonyKnightSlides.pdf>
- University of Utah - Cultivated and a few Native Plants
<https://poisoncontrol.utah.edu/plant-guide/all-plants>
- Poisonous Plants of SE US from Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service – humans & livestock
<https://giles.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/194/2020/10/Ag-Poisonous-Plants-of-the-Southeastern-United-States.pdf>
- Missouri Poison Control Center – focus on people

<https://missouripoisoncenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/MPC-Family-ToxicPlants-v3.pdf>

The resources used by wildflower.org

- [Poisonous Plants of North Carolina](#)
- [Cornell University Plants Poisonous to Livestock](#)
- [Toxic Plants of Texas](#)
- [University of Pennsylvania Poisonous Plants](#)
- [Canadian Poisonous Plants Information System](#)
- [ASPCA Toxic and Non-toxic Plant List - Dogs](#)

How to Select Rain Garden Plants

Prairie Smoke *Geum triflorum* - no known sources found

“*Geum triflorum* (Prairie Smoke) is not known to be toxic to humans or pets when ingested in small quantities.” *He did not quote the source of this information and wildflower.org just said it didn’t appear on their list – it is not in their database so not necessarily a safe assumption*” However, as with any plant, it’s advisable to exercise caution and avoid consumption unless the plant is verified safe by a reliable source. If accidental ingestion occurs, monitor for any unusual symptoms and consult a medical professional or veterinarian if necessary.”

https://igrowhort.com/discover-geum-triflorum-prairie-smoke-native-plant-profile-and-growing-tips/?srsrtid=AfmBOopFzS6jLCXT4erKcecwvL6JptjJwG4ux3hMWLJ_x_eWlgbTc82U

Lanceleaf Coreopsis *Coreopsis lanceolata* – *Coreopsis* ssp.

ASPCA lists as nontoxic to dogs cats and horses

Harebell *Campanula rotundifolia* – no information found

Purple Prairie Clover *Dalea purpurea* – no reference to toxicity

Purple Lovegrass *Eragrostis spectabilis* – no reference to toxicity

Wild Petunia *Ruellia humilis* now *Ruellia simplex* (those taxonomists snuck another one in on me) – no reference to toxicity

Sweet Grass *Hierochloa odorata* – I found several sources suggesting it causes mild stomach upset if eaten in excess, while other dog-related websites talk about feeding it to their dogs https://plants.usda.gov/DocumentLibrary/plantguide/pdf/pg_hiod.pdf

Sky Blue Aster *Aster azureus* - skin irritant University of Vermont

Butterfly weed *Asclepias tuberosa* -Toxic to dogs, cats and horses per ASPCA

Sideoats Grama *Bouteloua curtipendula* -no reference found

Rough Blazing Star *Liatris aspera* - ASPCA listed *Liatris* sp. as only possibly causing mild stomach upset to pets in article on cut flowers for Mother’s Day

Showy Black-eyed Susan *Rudbeckia fulgida* speciosa - *R. hirta* listed as causing skin irritant for people – pets? University of Vermont Possibly other *Rudbeckias*?

Hoary Vervain *Verbena stricta* -no reference found

Blue False Indigo *Baptisia australis* – harmful to people if eaten – University of Vermont Toxicity for children & cats UNC

Showy Milkweed *Asclepias speciosa* – Toxic to dogs, cats and horses per ASPCA

Swamp Milkweed *Asclepias incarnata* - Toxic to dogs, cats and horses per ASPCA

Pale Purple Coneflower *Echinacea pallida* – no reference found

Meadow Blazing Star *Liatris ligulistylis* -ASPCA listed *Liatris* sp. as only possibly causing mild stomach upset to pets in article on cut flowers for Mother's Day

Stiff Goldenrod *Solidago rigida* -no reference found

Early Sunflower *Heliopsis helianthoides* - no reference found

Blue Vervain *Verbena hastata* -no reference found

Wild Strawberry *Fragaria virginiana* – nontoxic ASPCA

Nodding Pink Onion *Allium cernuum*-Members of onion family (*Allium*) toxic to pets ASPCA https://www.aspcapro.org/sites/default/files/c-vetm0805_562-566.pdf skin irritant to people - University of Vermont

Downy Wood Mint *Blephilia ciliata* – no reference found

Wild Lupine *Lupinus perennis* -harmful to people if eaten –University of Vermont
UNC – alkaloids toxic to people and pets if eaten

Common Yarrow *Achillea millefolium* -skin irritant in sunlight to people -pets?
University of Vermont & AMA

Brown Fox Sedge *Carex vulpinoidea* no reference found

Black-eyed Susan *Rudbeckia hirta* – skin irritant for people – pets? University of Vermont
Possibly other Rudbeckias?

Great Blue Lobelia *Lobelia siphilitica* – lobelias harmful if eaten – people & pets
UNC and AMA

Lead Plant *Amorpha canescens* -no reference found

New Jersey Tea *Ceanothus americanus* -no reference found

Foxglove *Penstemon digitalis* -no reference found

Mountain Mint *Pycnanthemum virginianum* - *Mentha* sp. causes vomiting and diarrhea in pets if ingested in large amounts (ASPCA) does this apply to all members of the mint (*Lamiaceae*) family?

Little Bluestem *Schizachyrium scoparium* - no reference found

Prairie Dropseed *Sporobolus heterolepis* -no reference found

Blue Wood Aster *Symphotrichum cordifolium* -no reference found

Lavender Hyssop *Agastache foeniculum* -no reference found

Wood Mint *Blephilia hirsuta* – no reference found

Cardinal Flower *Lobelia cardinalis* – harmful to people and pets if eaten - UNC & AMA

Wild Bergamot *Monarda fistulosa* -no reference found

Purple Coneflower *Echinacea purpurea* -no reference found

Sweet Black-eyed Susan *Rudbeckia subtomentosa* -*R. hirta* skin irritant for people – pets?
University of Vermont Possibly other Rudbeckias?

Plains Oval Sedge *Carex brevoir* -no reference found

Wild Geranium *Geranium maculatum* - no reference found (Pelargoniums commonly known as geraniums are toxic – ASPCA)

Wild Columbine *Aquilegia canadensis* – harmful to people if eaten – pets?
University of Vermont

Big Leaf Aster *Aster macrophyllus* -no reference found

Heartleaf Golden Alexander *Zizia aurea* -no reference found

Long beak Sedge *Carex sprengei* -no reference found

Mist Flower *Eupatorium coelestinum* -some Eupatoriums are toxic to people, this one?

ASPCA lists *Ageratina altissima* formerly *Eupatorium rugosum* as toxic to horses

UNC also lists as problem for people, children and horses

ZigZag Goldenrod *Solidago flexicaulis* -no reference found

Tall Anemone *Anemone virginiana* Anemones -listed as poisonous to humans UNC & AMA,
this includes Pulsatilla (*Pulsatilla patens* formerly *Anemone patens*)

Virginia Wild Rye *Elymus virginicus* -no reference found

Tall Bellflower *Campanula americana* formerly *Campanulastrum americana*-no reference found