

DOG-SAFE GARDENING



If you're a dog owner, you know just how fun it can be to play with your pet in the garden. Playing fetch, chasing them with a hose, and more are fond memories to make. But, of course, you want to make sure your garden is a safe space for man's best friend. Find out in my guide how to best cater your garden to your dog.



UNSAFE PLANTS FOR DOGS

If you suspect your dog has eaten any of the below plants, **consult your vet immediately**. Some may only cause a stomach upset, whilst others can be fatal.

- Azalea
- Bluebells
- Common poppy
- Cotoneaster
- Crocus
- Daffodil
- Dumbcane
- Foxglove
- Garden star-of-Bethlehem
- Grape fruits
- Giant hogweed
- Holly
- Horse chestnut
- Hyacinth
- Ivy
- Laburnum
- Lily of the valley
- Mistletoe
- Onion and garlic
- Oak
- Oleander
- Potato plants
- Pieris plants
- Rowan
- Rhubarb
- Snowdrops
- Tomato
- Tulips
- Yew

This is not a complete list, but are the key plants to be aware of. If your dog likes digging and nibbling on leaves, these are plants to avoid. Alternatively, grow them in containers or areas out of your dog's reach.

Symptoms of plant poisoning to look out for include:

- Drooling
- Not eating
- Low energy
- Vomiting/diarrhoea
- Drinking or weeing more
- Rashes
- Red skin
- Mouth ulcers
- Pale gums
- Twitching or seizures
- Collapse

SAFE PLANTS FOR DOGS

Whilst there are quite a few plants not suitable for dogs, there are still plenty which are perfectly safe. Always assess your pet's behaviour around these plants, just to be sure. See below a list of many plants which aren't toxic to your pet:

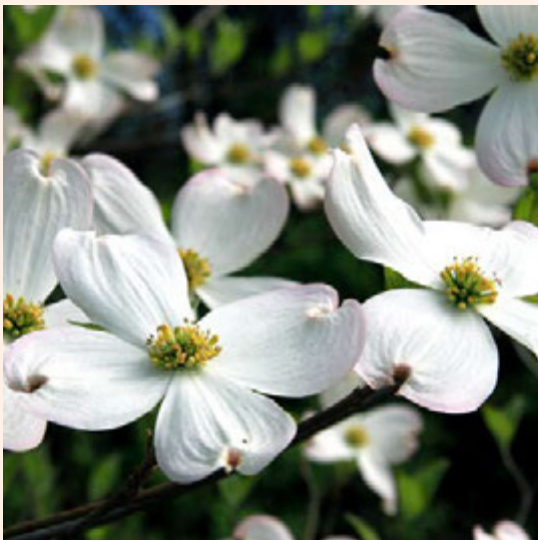
ORNAMENTALS

- **Snapdragons** – Flower from June to October.
- **Asters** – Flower from August to October.
- **Sunflowers** – Flower from July to September.
- **Roses** – Flower from late spring to early autumn.
- **Camellias** – Flower from October to April.



TREES AND SHRUBS

- **Dogwood** – Small, deciduous shrub. Flowers from January to June.
- **Magnolia** – Deciduous or evergreen, tree or shrub. Flowers in spring or summer.
- **Viburnum** – Deciduous or evergreen shrubs. Flowering time depends on variety.
- **Hazel** – Deciduous tree, flowering from January to March (catkins).





HERBS

- **Lavender** – Fragrant flowers dogs can investigate. Flowers from April to September.
- **Rosemary** – Aromatic Mediterranean herb. Non-toxic and safe in small amounts.
- **Thyme** – Compact and evergreen. Safe for dogs to ingest in moderation.
- **Chamomile** – Safe for dogs, and may even ease anxiety for them.

FRUIT & VEGETABLES

- **Carrots** – These crunchy and nutritious root vegetables are safe for dog consumption.
- **Green beans** – A healthy, low-calorie treat for dogs, raw or cooked plain.
- **Pumpkin** – This can help with digestion, skin, and coats for dogs when plain.
- **Blueberries** – Full of antioxidants and vitamins good for dogs.
- **Apples** – Great for fibre and vitamins, just be mindful of feeding your dogs the seeds.



HOUSEPLANTS

- **Boston Fern** – Perfectly safe if your dog ingests part of the leaves. Prefer a humid position.
- **Areca Palm** – Non-toxic and safe for dogs, with minimal risk to pets. A great air purifier.
- **Phalaenopsis Orchid** – Non-toxic and low risk. Give roots access to sunlight in clear pots so they can photosynthesise.
- **Bromeliad** – Also non-toxic. Produce striking sword-like bracts.



DOG-FRIENDLY ESSENTIALS

SHELTER

A garden is full of fun for dogs, but they need somewhere to rest too, especially in the summer. A kennel is a great option which is waterproof too, otherwise a shady tree will help them to cool down. Pop a soft bed or cooling mat in there for comfort.



DIGGING AREAS

Some dogs really love to dig. Whilst it can be frustrating in your borders, try to establish a specific dog-digging zone. Bury their favourite toys or bones under some gravel or bark chip for them to discover. If you can, put barriers around this area too to stop them digging elsewhere.



SECURE BOUNDARIES

Make sure your pet is safe and secure in your garden by checking your fencing. Look out for any gaps your dog might be able to slip through, and ensure borders are tall enough that they can't jump over them. Also, add dig barriers if your dog likes digging.



DURABLE GROUND

If your dog loves running around in your outdoor space, make sure it can endure wear and tear. Paved areas are a great option, and make sure your lawn is made of tough stuff too. Resilient grass species like perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*) are hardy and have rapid germination.

SAFE PLANTS

Some plants are dangerous for dogs, others are perfectly safe. In this document, I have outlined plants to be wary of, symptoms of poisoning, and plants which are safe for your furry friends. Also, avoid thorny or spikey plants which could cause scratches and scrapes.



PREVENT LAWN BURN

It's common to see burn marks on your lawn where your dog has urinated, particularly female dogs. Make sure your dogs are properly hydrated to reduce nitrogen in their urine. Also, water the lawn after your dog has relieved themselves, to dilute the nitrogen in the soil.