



GeoCatch

www.geocatch.asn.au

CATIO PLANTING GUIDE

"Fresh air! Nature's beauty! A kitty hike or, more likely, a catnap in the sun! We relish the opportunity to relax outside and so do our cats. Catos allow for the expansion of an indoor cat's world to include experiencing the full spectrum of the change of seasons: sights, smells, feels!"

www.catssafeathome.org/catio



Safe catio planting

Cats are natural explorers. They will climb up, rub against, lay on, hide in, dig around, and occasionally chew plants.

Containment concentrates activity, whether in a house or catio, so while the space needs to be varied and enriching, it also needs to be 100% cat safe (no plants with spikes or thorns, no toxins/harmful chemicals).

Check the lists of toxic plants (provided overleaf), and remove any you find in the garden or house immediately. Remember lillies (plants and cut flowers) in particular are a serious danger to your cat.

Poison symptoms

If a plant is poisonous to cats, assume all parts of the plant are harmful. Many plants are irritants so the symptoms will be irritation or inflammation (swelling, redness and itchy areas) around the eyes, mouth or skin.

Watch for:

- Difficulty breathing
- Drooling or difficulty swallowing
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Excessive drinking or urinating
- Fast, slow or irregular heartbeat
- Weakness

If you see your cat eating an unfamiliar plant or suspect plant poisoning:

1. Remove any plant material from your cat's hair, mouth and skin.
2. Keep your cat confined in a safe place and monitor closely.
3. Take your cat (and plant sample) to the vet as soon as possible.

Catio landscape ideas

When you are ready to landscape your catio, there are lots of ways to integrate plants and outdoor features into the space, turning it into a delightful sanctuary and jungle gym for your cat.

Your catio is only limited by your imagination and creativity. Here are some ideas to get you started:

1. Make a list of the cat-safe plants you want to use.
2. Decide where you will enjoy sitting and lay out a few pavers or decking for chairs(s).
3. Include some soft ground area (lawn, groundcover).
4. Set out some taller shrubs for structure, shade and hiding in.
5. Infill beds with other plants from your list - ensuring suitability of position for sun/shade.
6. Mulch the planting beds well with clean, good quality mulch and encourage your cat to use it as an outdoor litter tray.
7. Arrange scented pot plants for added interest - 'cat grass' is a must in any catio!
8. Add some boulders or blocks for height variation, stepping stones and sunbathing.
9. Plant bird attracting vegetation around the outside of the catio for purrfect cat entertainment.

Gardens need maintenance to stay healthy - mulch may need periodic cleaning (de-poop) and topping up.

Ensure you use only pet-friendly garden or house products: Check fertilisers, foliar sprays, pesticides, cleaners, etc. Choose natural materials where possible (eg. sisal).

Note: If you have an 'open' catio, birds, possums, snakes, rats, etc., may get in. Avoid plants known to attract wildlife in this situation.



Catio resources

Websites that focus on the wellbeing of cats and plants (especially listing toxic plants) include:

www.aspca.org
www.cfa.org/toxic-plants
www.petmd.com/cat/emergency
 see also:
www.safecat.org.au
www.catssafeathome.org
www.catiospaces.com
www.goodcatsa.com/cat-proofing
 - Good cats play at home (booklet)
www.rspca.org.au - Keeping your cat safe and happy at home

Local resources:

www.geocatch.asn.au
 pets away, possums play factsheet
 catio design guide factsheet
www.kwokka.com.au - design + DIY build + landscape consultancy
www.katzone.com.au
 customized build + installation
 Busselton Mens Shed - DIY plans
 Bunnings - materials



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"Cats naturally want to be outside where they can breathe fresh air and experience the sights, sounds and stimulation of the natural world.

A catio, an outdoor cat enclosure or "cat patio," is the perfect solution to solve the indoor/outdoor dilemma and keep your cat safe, healthy and happy... Catos provide peace of mind knowing your cat is always safe while protecting birds and wildlife."

www.catiospaces.com



cat friendly

Native plants

Selection below suited to south-west WA. *These plants are considered benign but are not on the ASPCA list.

*Albany woolly bush (*Adenanthos* spp.)

*Banksia *prostrata* (*Banksia petiolaris*)

Bottlebrush (*Callistemon* spp.)

*Coastal daisy bush (*Olearia axillaris*)

*Cottonheads (*Conostylis candicans*)

*Fairy star kunzea (*Kunzea ambigua*)

*Native fuschia (*Correa 'Dusky Bells'*)

*Native rosemary (*Westringea* spp.)

*Olive leaf grevillea (*Grevillea olivacea*)

Pincushion protea (*Leucospermum incisum*)

*Pincushion hakea (*Hakea laurina*)

*Scarlet kunzea (*Kunzea baxteri*)

*Spider Net grevillea (*Grevillea thelemanniana*)

cat friendly

Pot plants

Plants that can be grown in pots indoors or outdoors and appeal to cats include:

*Cat grass (*Dactylis glomerata*), also barley, oat, wheat grass

*Cat mint (*Nepeta mussinii*)

*Cat thyme (*Teucrium marum*)

*Peppermint (*Mentha x piperita*)

*Valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*)

Other suitable pot plants include:

African violet (*Saintpaulia* spp.)

Bamboo palm (*Chamaedorea elegans*)

Basil/sweet basil (*Ocimum basilicum*)

Cilantro/coriander (*Coriandrum sativum*)

Dill (*Anethum graveolena*)

Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*)

Fish Tail fern (*Cyrtomium falcatum*)

Lemon balm (*Melissa officinalis*)

Mother fern (*Asplenium bulbiferum*)

Paradise palm/Kentia (*Howea forsteriana*)

Spider plant (*Chlorophytum comosum*)

Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*)

cat friendly

Non-native plants

African daisy (*Gerbera jamesonii*)

*Bougainvillea (thornless species)

Buzzy Lizzie/Impatiency (*Impatiens* spp.)

Calethea/Maranta (*Calathea* spp.)

Canna (*Canna generalis*)

Canterbury bell (*Gloxinia perennis*)

Chicken/hens (*Echeveria elegans*)

Crepe myrtle (*Lagerstromia indica*)

Feather palm fern (*Nephrolepis exalta*)

Garden marigold (*Calendula officinalis*)

Grape hyacinth (*Muscari armeniacum*)

Hibiscus/Rose of China (*Hibiscus syriacus*)

Jasmine (*Jasminum* spp.)

Ghost/Mother of pearl (*Sedum weinbergii*)

Pearly dots (*Haworthia margaritifera*)

Petunia (*Petunia* spp.)

Rose (*Rosaceae* spp.)

Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*)

Scarlet sage (*Salvia coccinea*)

Silver table fern (*Pteridaceae*)

Star jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*)

Sweet alyssum (*Alyssum* spp.)

Sword/Verona fern (*Nephrolepis biserrata*)

Wild strawberry (*Fragaria* spp.)

Plants, pets + poison

"While there are lots of great plants that cats love and aren't toxic, it's important to note any plant can be eaten by your cat and may cause vomiting or choking. So it's always a great idea to check out the ASPCA's Toxic and Non-Toxic Plant List before adding new or unknown plants to your home and catio."

www.caticospaces.com

The website for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals website has comprehensive lists of plants both non-toxic (563 listed) and toxic to cats (422+ listed). All plants on this page have been taken from the ASPCA lists, with the exception of the local native plants marked with an asterisk*.

www.asPCA.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control



Toxic plants

Catnip (can cause vomiting or diarrhea)

Aloe vera

Amaryllis

Asparagus fern

Autumn crocus

Azalea + Rhodo

Bay laurel

Begonia

Carnation

Castor bean

Chrysanthemum

Cyclamen

Daffodil + narcissus

Daisy + dahlia

Diffenbachia

Dracaena

English ivy

Fruit trees (many)

Eucalyptus

Gardenia

Geranium

Hellebore

Hydrangea

Indian rubber/ficus

Iris (all varieties)

Lemon grass

Lillies (all varieties)

Lantana

Lavander

Marijuana

Mint + Chamomile

Oleander

Onion + Garlic

Pothos/Devils Ivy

Sago palm/cycas

Tulips

Rhubarb

Schefflera

Strelitzia

Succulents (many)

Swiss Cheese

Tomato plant

This project is delivered by GeoCatch and is supported by South West Catchment Councils, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.



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Australian Government

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SWCC

south west catchments council



Pets Away,
**Possums
Play.**