

Plants and Branches for Your Bird

Few studies have been conducted to determine which houseplants are toxic to birds, so all plants that contain known toxic chemicals have been excluded from the Safe Plant List below. Plants with foliage safe for decoration in bird areas include:

Acacia	Dracaena	Palms: areca, date, fan, lady,
African violet	Ferns: asparagus, bird's nest	parlour, howeia, kentia
Aloe	Boston (and related), maidenhair	Phoenix, sago***
Baby's tears	Figs: creeping, rubber, fiddle leaf	Pepperomia
Bamboo	laurel leaf, weeping	Petunia
Begonia	Gardenia	Pittosporum
Bougainvillea	Grape Ivy	Pathos
Chickweed	Hens and chickens	Prayer plant
Christmas cactus	Jade plant	Purple passion (Velvet nettles)
Cissus (Kangaroo vine)	Kalanchoe	Schefflera (Umbrella)
Coffee	Magnolia	Sensitive plant
Coleus	Marigolds	Spider plant
Corn plant	Monkey plant	Swedish Ivy
Crabapple	Mother-in-law's tongue	Thistle
Dandelion	Nasturtium	Wandering Jew
Dogwood	Natal plum	White clover
Donkey tail	Norfolk Island pine	Zebra plant

*** Note: Cycad, Sago, *Zamia* palms (*Cycad* spp.) are potentially toxic to the liver.

Tree branches make the best perches. The trees listed below provide safe branches, leaves, and bark for perching and chewing. These materials are unsafe if they have been sprayed with chemicals or pesticides. Before installing natural tree branches in your bird's cage, scrub all branches with non-toxic disinfectant (such as 1 part chlorhexidine or bleach diluted with 10 parts water), rinsed thoroughly, and dried well.

Apple	Madrona	Pear
Almond	Magnolia	Plum
Apricot	Vine maple	Prune
Ash	Nectarine	Goat willow
Any citrus	Nut (except horse chestnut & oak)	Pussy willow
Dogwood	Papaya	Weeping willow
Elm	Peach	Thurflow
Guava		

References

Richardson JA. Implications of toxic substances in clinical disorders. In: Harrison GJ, Lightfoot TL (eds). *Clinical Avian Medicine*. Spix Publishing, Inc; Palm Beach, FL. pp. 711-719, 2006.

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