



PASTURES BULLIES

Plants that are Toxic to Horses and Livestock

Don't let your horses and livestock consume toxic plants! Invasive weeds and non-pasture plants can seriously harm or kill your animals and you can help prevent it!

Watch for the following plants in and around your pasture or in imported hay. The quantity consumed will determine the toxicity to your animals. This is not an all inclusive list. *If you have an animal that you believe has been poisoned, contact a veterinarian immediately.*

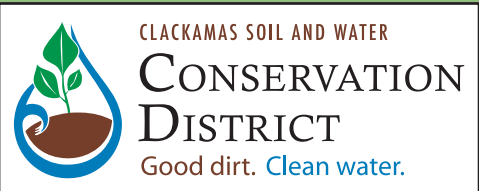


| Plants Found in Western Oregon that May Cause Toxic Responses in Horses and Livestock | |
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| Plant name | Comments |
| Bracken Fern (<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>) | Toxic to: Equines, Cattle, Sheep, Chickens, possibly Alpacas/Llamas. |
| Cheatgrass (<i>Bromus tectorum</i>) | Toxic to: Equines, Cattle. (Others may not normally graze it but seeds can lodge in eye/face/nostril.) |
| Buttercup/ Creeping buttercup (<i>Ranunculus</i> spp.) | Toxic to: Equines, Cattle, Sheep, Goats, Alpacas, Llamas, Chickens. Usually avoided unless poor pasture conditions leave animals no other choice. |
| Chokecherry (<i>Prunus virginiana</i>) | Toxic to: Sheep, Cattle and Horses. All plant parts are potentially toxic but mostly young leaves and seeds. Found along fence rows. |
| Common Groundsel (<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>) | Toxic to: Equines, Cattle; possibly Alpacas and Llamas. Sheep and Goats are resistant. Likely found in hay. |
| Common St. Johnswort (<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>) | Toxic to: Equines, Cattle, Sheep, Alpacas, Llamas, Chickens. Toxicity to goats is debated. Most toxic in spring in severely depleted pastures with poor forage. Also found in hay. |
| Horsetail (<i>Equisetum</i> spp.) | Toxic to: Equines, Chickens in particular; rarely for Cattle, Sheep, Goats, possibly Alpacas/Llamas. May be more toxic when dried than fresh. |
| Larkspur (<i>Delphinium</i> spp.) | Toxic to: Equines, other animals. Young shoots and seeds are toxic. Toxicity remains even after dry. |
| Lupines (<i>Lupinus</i> spp.) | Toxic to: Equines, Cattle, Sheep, Goats, Alpacas, Llamas, Chickens. All parts, including seeds; pods are toxic until dried and fragmented. |

The key to avoiding plant toxicity is to create an environment where toxic plants are not able to thrive and spread. Developing a land management system using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) can reduce and control weeds.

Part of IPM is managing pastures for healthy soil and high-quality forage. Invasive weeds have a hard time competing with vigorous, healthy plants.

- Allow grasses to recover after grazing and never graze below 3" before moving animals to another pasture paddock.



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| Milk Thistle (<i>Silybum marianum</i>) | Toxic to: Cattle, Sheep, Goats, Alpacas, Llamas, especially those in poor condition; rarely equines. |
| Mustards (<i>Chorisporea</i> , <i>Brassica</i> , <i>Descurainia</i> , <i>Sisymbrium</i> , <i>Capsella</i> , <i>Thlaspi</i> , and <i>Lepidium species</i>) | Toxic to: Equines, Cattle, Sheep, Goats, Alpacas, Llamas. Pregnant and young animals at greater risk. May be in hay, particularly with heavy contamination; seeds are most toxic. |
| Poison Hemlock and Water Hemlock (<i>Conium maculatum</i> & <i>Cicuta douglasii</i>) | Toxic to all. Grazed when pastures are degraded or little forage available. Water hemlock is most likely to cause toxicity after plowing or trampling exposes the roots. |
| Tansy Ragwort (<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>) | Toxic to: Equines, Cattle, Sheep, Goats, Alpacas, Llamas. (Equines are particularly susceptible.) Flowerheads are most toxic. |
| Nitrate Accumulators | Common lambsquarter, red pigweed, curly dock, and sorghum/sudangrass in hay can be toxic to livestock. |

- Divide your land into smaller paddocks and rotate your animals together through each area. This allows other areas to rest and regrow.
- Create a sacrifice area for use during the rainy season. Hooves are very destructive on wet pastures.
- Test your soil. Add manure, lime, or fertilizer to improve soil fertility as recommended by test results.



Calendar for Pasture Management

January thru March: For the rainy season, keep animals confined to a sacrifice area to avoid compacting soil in wet pastures. Pick manure from sacrifice areas every one to three days. Always cover manure piles.

April thru June: Sample soil for nutrient and lime needs. Split the recommended nitrogen application between spring and fall. Remember composted manure is also a source of nutrients. Plan and install a rotational grazing system before turning animals into paddocks. Repair damaged fencelines and gates, but wait until the soil starts to dry out before releasing animals. Graze paddock grasses to 3-4 inches then move animals to a new section. After rotating animals, mow and harrow paddock. Keep animals out until grass is 6-8 inches. As part of an IPM plan, now is a good time to spray herbicide on weedy forbs. It is also a good time to pull rosettes of many weeds, like Tansy ragwort and thistles.

July and August: After rotating paddocks, mow and harrow. Keep animals out of a paddock until the grass is 6-8 inches. If your paddocks cannot keep up, return animals to the sacrifice area until grasses have regrown adequately.

September and early October: Wait for early fall rains to reseed bare spots or overseed paddocks. Once the seed is down, avoid grazing that paddock. If you missed spring soil sampling, do it now. If not, apply the remaining nitrogen from the spring recommendation. When soils become wet, take animals off pastures to avoid soil compaction. Now is also a good time to spray herbicide on weedy forbs and annual grasses.

October thru December: Confine animals to your winter sacrifice area and pick manure every one to three days.



Additional Resources:

Protect Your Horses and Livestock From Toxic Plants - A guide to identifying and controlling common, toxic noxious weeds and other toxic plant species. Produced by the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
https://www.nwcb.wa.gov/pdfs/Final-WSNWCB-toxic-booklet_low_res.pdf

Tips on Land & Water Management for Small Acreages in Oregon https://conservationdistrict.org/?wpfb_dl=904

Managing Small-Acreage Horse Farms in Western Oregon and Western Washington
 Melissa Fery, David Hannaway, Garry Stephenson, Linda J. Brewer, and Scott Duggan
<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/ec1558/html>