

Poisonous Plants for your Equine

Not all plants listed here are deadly; the reactions vary widely from mild to dead in minutes.
CALL YOUR VET.

Alsike Clover
Apricot Tree - see cherry tree
Azalea
Baneberries - intensive digestive upset
Black Locust - bark, sprouts, foliage - nausea, weakness and depression
Black walnut - be careful to get shavings which contain no black walnut
Box Wood - lethal
Braken Fern - often poisons horses - nervous symptoms characteristic of vitamin b1 deficiency - can be poisoned by braken in hay or bedding
Buckeyes
Buttercups
Cherry Trees - twigs and foliage - can be lethal - antidote is effective if given very quickly - very common tree
Chives - affects liver and kidneys
Christmas Rose - butter cup family
Cocklebur - found on pond shores
Corn Cockles
Crimson clover
Daphne - small red or yellow berries cause severe mouth burns
Dutchman's breeches - grows in pastures and have caused loss of livestock
Elderberry - digestive upset
Ficus
Foxgloves - fresh or in hay - irregular heart beat and pulse
Foxtail
Ground Ivy - Lethal - causes slobbering, sweating, pupil dilation
Horseradish - becomes excited, in pain - loses weight even though eating
Horse chestnuts - related to buckeyes which are poisonous - no evidence that chestnuts are
Horsetail
Hyacinth
Irises - fleshy root
Jack-in-the-pulpit - contains oxalate crystals
Japanese maple
Japanese Yew
Jimsonweed
Larkspur - found in flower gardens or wild - leaves and roots
Leafy Spurge
Lily's - (some not all) - bulb
Lily-of-the valley
Lupine - western variety has caused lots of livestock deaths
May apple - animals occasionally poisoned - 16 active toxic principles
Monkshood
Mountain Laurel - VERY DEADLY
mushrooms
Narcissus
Nightshade
Oaks - acorns - in large amounts - gradual kidney damage in livestock
Oleander --deadly
Onions - a few are fine but large amounts for several days will destroy red blood cells
Sheep laurel
Peach Tree - see cherry tree
Plum Tree - see cherry tree
Pond Scums - algae
Potatoes - leaves and vines the normal healthy tuber itself is harmless
Privet
Ragwort

Red Maple
Rhododendron
Rubarb - leaf
Rubber Tree - contains a strong irritant called Euphorbia can cause colic.
Saint Johns Wort
Star-of-Bethlehem-onion like weed that has caused extensive loss to livestock
Sensitive Fern
Skunk Cabbage
Sudan Grass- under 18" dark green
Sweet Pea - seeds produce skeletal deformity
Thornapple
Tomatoes - vines may be poisonous
Vetch
Waterhemlock - tubular roots sometimes have enough toxin that one root can kill - violent and painful convulsions
White Snakeroot -- horse?? but it does effect cows and people if they drink the milk of cows that have eaten white snakeroot
Yew - can be deadly - greenish-yellow on the under surface - no white stripe

Most horses that have enough forage will not eat what is poisonous.
BUT if hand fed a horse may eat what it shouldn't, if there is very little forage left they may eat what they normally would not.
Some of the plants listed above, can kill in one mouthful, others like the onion take a lot to to damage.

This list is not complete. There are over 700 plants in the US and Canada that are poisonous.

It can't be said enough. CALL YOUR VET if you suspect a problem with plant poisoning.