

TOXIC PLANTS

Plant: Alsike clover

Other Plants in Class:

Animals Affected: H

Most Toxic Part or Time: Problem in pasture & hay

Symptoms: 1st syndrome: Slobbering, sweating, photosensitive. 2nd: "big liver disease"; jaundice w/yellow discoloration around mouth, eyes & nonpigmented areas of skin, weight loss/anorexia, depression, incoordination, dark urine, enlarged liver/liver failure.

Recovery: Usually animals recover if removed from source; liver damage may be fatal

Control Methods: Rehabilitate pasture; herbicides: 2,4-D, Weedmaster, Curtail, Tordon.



Plant: Arrowgrass

Other Plants in Class: Cyanide-accumulators such as sudangrass; fruit trees

Animals Affected: All

Most Toxic Part or Time: All parts; poisonous at all times; contains salt which attracts animals; problem in hay.

Symptoms: Not cumulative--must consume lethal dose in short time. Uneasiness, abnormal breathing, weakness, staggering & falling, dilation of eyes, bloating, convulsions, coma, death.

Recovery: Usually found dead.

Control Methods: Difficult to treat because usually in marshy area. Easiest to fence animals away from the area.



Plant: Bindweed/morning glory

Other Plants in Class:

Animals Affected: All

Most Toxic Part or Time: All

Symptoms: Hallucinations, wasting/weight loss, depression

Recovery: Protect until comes off "trip" - may have recurrences

Control Methods: Deep, extensive root system, difficult to control manually. Herbicides: Banvel, Weedmaster, Tordon, Escort & 2,4-D



Plant: Birdsfoot trefoil

Other Plants in Class: White clover, vetch

Animals Affected: C,S,G, occ H

Most Toxic Part or Time: All parts

Symptoms: Depends on many factors: chronic or acute poisoning: excitement, difficulty breathing, tremors, salivation, bright red blood, convulsions, death (few minutes to hours). H: chronic form - incoordination, incontinence, abort or deliver deformed foals

Recovery: Usually found dead; can be treated if not severe. Remove from source - particularly chronic form

Control Methods: Rehabilitate pasture; herbicides: 2,4-D, Weedmaster, Curtail, Tordon.



Plant: Brackenfern
Other Plants in Class: Horsetail, Scouring rush
Animals Affected: H,C,S,all can be affected
Most Toxic Part or Time: Roots are 5 times more toxic than leaves. Fresh plant: spring - fall. Hay: any time
Symptoms: H: Weight loss, weakness, stands crouched, staggers, tremors, convulsions, death. C: rough coat, high temperature, difficult breathing, salivation, depression, nasal/rectal/urinary bleeding, mucous membrane hemorrhages. Onset sudden; usually die.
Recovery: Treatable if symptoms recognized before brain damage occurs for H or severe hemorrhaging for C
Control Methods: Difficult due to rhizomes - active deep tilling. Do not allow animals access to roots. Herbicides: Banvel, Weedmaster



Plant: Buttercup
Other Plants in Class:
Animals Affected: H,C,P,S
Most Toxic Part or Time: All parts; spring & summer as part of grazing; toxin volatilizes upon drying so not problem in hay
Symptoms: Blistering of lips/mouth/GI tract, salivation, colic, diarrhea. Acute deaths have been seen in sheep & pigs: twitching of head, paralysis, death. Pigs may be prostrate for 2-3 days before dying.
Recovery: Prognosis good if removed from source at earliest symptoms.
Control Methods: Difficult to dig out; active tilling can be effective. Herbicides: MCPA, 2,4-D, Weedmaster



Plant: Chokecherry
Other Plants in Class: Cherry, peach, elderberry
Animals Affected: C,S
Most Toxic Part or Time: Leaves; fruit pits. Leaves lose toxicity by end of summer.
Symptoms: Must consume lethal dose within 1/2-1 hr; not cumulative. Uneasiness, abnormal breathing, weakness, staggering, falling, dilation of eyes, bloat, convulsions, coma, death.
Recovery: Usually found dead; seldom possible to treat.
Control Methods: Restrict animals from area; remove plants from pasture. Herbicides: Banvel, Roundup, Tordon - basal treatments.



Plant: Cocklebur
Other Plants in Class: Xanthium spp.
Animals Affected: All
Most Toxic Part or Time: Only seeds & cotyledons; no longer toxic once true leaves form. Usually only early spring & summer; occasionally if new sprouting occurs. Seeds seldom eaten due to spiny seed coat.
Symptoms: Symptoms in 3 hours to 2 days. Anorexia, vomiting, difficulty breathing, blindness, prostration, convulsions, death.
Recovery: If toxic dose ingested, usually not treatable.
Control Methods: Annual; keep from going to seed, till out; treat with 2,4-D, Weedmaster, Curtail, Banvel, etc.



Plant: Columbia monkshood

Other Plants in Class:

Animals Affected: H,C,S; all classes susceptible

Most Toxic Part or Time: Roots; although leaves, flowers, stem are somewhat toxic

Symptoms: Restlessness, weakness, frothy salivation, swallowing, belching, bloat, irregular/labored breathing, weak pulse. Death within a few hours if toxic dose ingested.

Recovery: Depends

Control Methods: Usually not abundant-dig out and transplant somewhere else; similar treatment to larkspur



Plant: Corn cockle

Other Plants in Class: Bouncingbet, corn rose, corn campion, crown-of-the-field

Animals Affected: C,S,H, avian

Most Toxic Part or Time: Entire plant, but seeds are the most toxic -- primary hazard is in the feeding of wheat screenings.

Symptoms: Severe gastroenteritis, abdominal pain, incoordination, difficulty breathing, coma, death. P - vomiting, diarrhea, spasms. C - slobber, bloat, diarrhea. H - colic, slobber, rapid pulse.

Recovery: Depends - frequently found dead; but is treatable.

Control Methods: Rehabilitate area; most are annuals or biennials - can be tilled out or treated with 2,4-D, Weedmaster, Curtail, etc.



Plant: Death camas

Other Plants in Class: Lily of the valley; azalea; rhododendron; foxglove

Animals Affected: S most; all others susceptible

Most Toxic Part or Time: Seeds; leaves, stem & bulbs similar losing toxicity through season

Symptoms: Usually found dead from cardiac crash, but symptoms may not show for 2 days. Salivation, stiff-leggedness, weakness, increased rate of breathing, initial rise in temperature then falls below normal, staggering, coma, death.

Recovery: Treatment rarely possible

Control Methods: Bulbs can be dug out. Herbicides: Spray in early spring w/2,4-D ester; not effective after flower stalks appear



Plant: Dock

Other Plants in Class: Halogeton, beets, redroot pigweed

Animals Affected: All

Most Toxic Part or Time: All parts; lethal ingestions usually occur in fall - becomes more toxic toward end of season

Symptoms: Only if a lethal dose ingested, otherwise, animals don't appear to be affected. S - quick as 2 hrs. Dullness, loss of appetite, weakness, falling, prostration w/head extended, difficulty breathing, coma, death. May take several hours.

Recovery: Depends upon amount ingested. May have permanent liver damage and die anyway.

Control Methods: Dig out, till. Herbicides: 2,4-D, Weedmaster, Tordon, Milestone, chlorsulfuron, metsulfuron



Plant: Dogbane
Other Plants in Class: Oleander, foxglove
Animals Affected: H,C
Most Toxic Part or Time: All foliage; problem in hay or if animals have access to clippings
Symptoms: Depression, anorexia, digestive tract problems, diarrhea, colic, hemorrhagic discharges, difficulty breathing, cyanosis of mucous membranes, muscle tremors, patchy sweating. Signs in 5-24 hrs; death can occur in 10 hrs to 4 days.
Recovery: Difficult to treat; depends upon amount ingested and system damage
Control Methods:



Plant: Elderberry
Other Plants in Class:
Animals Affected: All
Most Toxic Part or Time: Root is most toxic; all parts are toxic
Symptoms: Usually just a severe purgative action; if glycoside is concentrated or animal eats enough, would see same symptoms as birdsfoot trefoil or chokecherry/cherry symptoms - bright red blood and respiratory failure.
Recovery: Usually good because bitter taste repels animals and they don't eat enough
Control Methods: Keep animals from area; provide suitable forage



Plant: False hellebore
Other Plants in Class:
Animals Affected: S, possibly C & G
Most Toxic Part or Time: Roots 8-10 times more toxic, but contain less of teratogen (fetus malformation agent); leaves & stems contain more of teratogen.
Symptoms: Acute: Salivation, vomiting, weakness, tremors/spasms, fast irregular heartbeat, shallow breath, coma, asphyxia; death in 3-6 hrs. Deformities: monkey face, skull & brain malformation, one central eye or eyes and nose lacking, delayed birth
Recovery: Good prognosis if removed from plant in time; difficult to treat if toxic dose ingested. No treatment for congenital deformities.
Control Methods: Dig out roots, use rubber gloves to handle (toxic to humans), tilling can be effective. Keep animals away from dried roots.



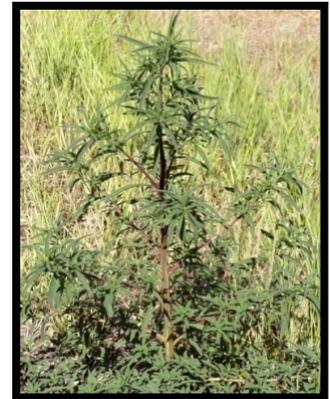
Plant: Houndstongue
Other Plants in Class: Fiddleneck, blueweed, bugloss
Animals Affected: H,C, occ. S
Most Toxic Part or Time: All parts
Symptoms: May take up to 6 months for death; rough hair coat, depression, anorexia, head pressing. Fatal if liver is unable to regenerate
Recovery: Depends
Control Methods: Biennial; keep from going to seed. Tilling. Herbicides: Escort, Tordon, Weedmaster



Plant: Knapweeds
Other Plants in Class: Russian, spotted, diffuse, etc.
Animals Affected: H
Most Toxic Part or Time: All?
Symptoms: Liver and brain damage; respiratory problems, aimless walking, head pressing, inability to chew or use lips. Death can occur from starvation & dehydration.
Recovery: Depends upon amount ingested, extent of damage
Control Methods: Active tilling, except with Russian. Pre-graze with cattle, sheep or goats. Herbicides: 2,4-D, Milestone, Weedmaster, Curtail, Tordon



Plant: Kochia
Other Plants in Class:
Animals Affected: C; possible H & S
Most Toxic Part or Time: All parts; most toxic later in year - can usually be grazed early in year
Symptoms: Similar to pigweed; also disorientation & aimless walking, blindness, diarrhea, liver & kidney damage.
Recovery: Depends upon amount ingested
Control Methods: Tough to kill - excellent control can be achieved with metribuzin, tribenuron, Weedmaster, bromoxynil w/dicamba or MCPA, metribuzin w/bromoxynil or chlorsulfuron



Plant: Larkspur
Other Plants in Class:
Animals Affected: C,H,S
Most Toxic Part or Time: New growth; early spring
Symptoms: Salivation, diarrhea, convulsions, staggering & falling & may kick convulsively in attempts to rise, respiratory depression. Death from respiratory failure. Bloat common in milder cases. More cattle losses than any other plant
Recovery: Depends upon extent of poisoning
Control Methods: Shallow tuberous root, fairly easy to dig out. Sheep are less affected & larkspurs are generally not dense; can utilize sheep ahead of cattle. Herbicide in early spring is best - Weedmaster, Tordon, Roundup or Escort



Plant: Leafy spurge
Other Plants in Class: All spurges
Animals Affected: H,C
Most Toxic Part or Time: All parts; any time
Symptoms: Severe irritation and blistering of mouth, gastrointestinal irritation and ulceration, diarrhea, hemorrhage.
Recovery: Treat w/adsorbent (charcoal), mineral oil
Control Methods: Herbicides: several treatments with 2,4-D products, Banvel, glyphosate, Plateau, Milestone. Graze sheep & goats prior to horses & cattle



Plant: Lupine
Other Plants in Class: Bluebonnet
Animals Affected: S,C,H,G,P,Deer
Most Toxic Part or Time: Pods most toxic; all parts some toxicity - summer and fall

Symptoms: Symptoms within 1 - 12 hours of consumption: loss of condition, excitement & butting into other animals, difficulty breathing, trembling, frothing at mouth, convulsions, coma & death. More sheep losses than any other plant in west. Liver damage.

Recovery: No effective treatment; depends upon dosage

Control Methods: Perennial; dig out taproot. Herbicides: Weedmaster; Tordon, Escort

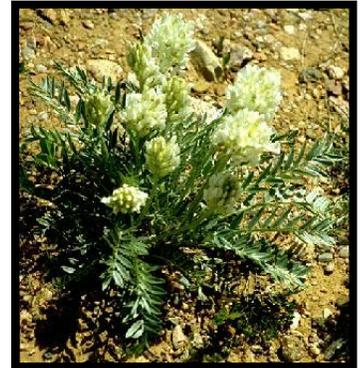


Plant: Milk vetch; locoweed
Other Plants in Class: Indian paintbrush, woody aster, Astragalus & Oxytropis spp.
Animals Affected: H,C,S,P
Most Toxic Part or Time: All parts all stages of growth; as dangerous dried whether on ground or in hay.

Symptoms: Loss of condition, inability to eat or drink, undirected ambling, motor control, irregular gait, nervousness, straying from herd, shying at familiar objects or jumping imaginary hazards (esp. horses), violent actions, apparent blindness death.

Recovery: Once symptoms noticed, generally too late; horses can never be ridden again. Animals develop addiction & seek out plant. Suckling offspring can become sick from mother's milk.

Control Methods: Rehabilitate pasture or hay field; herbicides: 2,4-D, Weedmaster, Curtail, Tordon



Plant: Mustards and hoary cress
Other Plants in Class: hoary cress, cabbage, kale, many & varied
Animals Affected: All

Most Toxic Part or Time: Seeds most toxic; all parts; may contain nitrate.

Symptoms: Dark red or brown urine, constipation, gastroenteritis, abdominal pain, occasionally blindness. Rarely death, depends upon amount ingested, causes pulmonary problems. Develop taste for plant which can cause overdose.

Recovery: Usually good prognosis -- remove from plant, blood transfusions for anemia, may require feeding

Control Methods: Usually shallow roots; dig, till; don't allow animals access to vegetable garden or trimmings. Herbicides: 2,4-D w/good surfactant, Weedmaster, Telar, Plateau, Escort



Plant: Nightshades
Other Plants in Class:
Animals Affected: C,S,P,H, avian
Most Toxic Part or Time: Green berries most toxic>red or black berries>leaves>stems & roots; July & August

Symptoms: Stupor, diarrhea, weakness, incoordination, paralysis, convulsions, dilated pupils, coma, respiratory depression, death.

Recovery: Depends; many recover if removed from plant

Control Methods: Annuals or perennials; active tilling, prevention of seed production. Herbicides: 2,4-D, Weedmaster, glyphosate



Plant: Oak
Other Plants in Class:
Animals Affected: H,C,S
Most Toxic Part or Time: Buds, acorns. Spring & fall
Symptoms: Abdominal pain, constipation, thirst, frequent urination, anorexia, tarry feces, grinding of teeth.
Recovery: Usually good if removed from source and provide supplemental feed. May result in death if large amount eaten.
Control Methods: Keep animals from area; provide suitable forage.



Plant: Pigweed
Other Plants in Class: Dock, beets, lambsquarter
Animals Affected: Pigs & mostly ruminants - All can be susceptible
Most Toxic Part or Time: All parts; spring & summer
Symptoms: Lack of oxygen in hemoglobin causes chocolate brown blood; rapid breathing, collapse, convulsions & death. Can be rapid death if toxic dose. Problem in hay-nitrate does not evaporate.
Recovery: Depends upon amount ingested.
Control Methods: Annual; keep from going to seed, till out; treat with 2,4-D, Weedmaster, Curtail, Banvel, etc.



Plant: Poison hemlock
Other Plants in Class: Wild carrot-less poisonous, same symptoms
Animals Affected: All
Most Toxic Part or Time: Root; all parts toxic; early season most often ingested, dangerous all year
Symptoms: Usually found dead; when symptoms seen, incoordination, salivation, excitement, abdominal pain, slow pulse and breathing, respiratory failure results in death.
Recovery: Rarely; can rarely treat
Control Methods: Biennial; dig taproot & burn - handle with rubber gloves; tilling, prevention of seed production. Herbicides: 2,4-D, Weedmaster, Escort



Plant: Ponderosa pine
Other Plants in Class: Western yellow pine
Animals Affected: C, possibly H
Most Toxic Part or Time: Needles, buds, and bark
Symptoms: Usually no symptoms in poisoned animal - Causes abortions or deformed offspring which soon die. Prevent access, particularly during 3rd trimester.
Recovery: Once poisoned, no treatment is effective
Control Methods: Keep animals from area; provide suitable forage



Plant: Red & white clover
Other Plants in Class: other clovers
Animals Affected: H,C
Most Toxic Part or Time: Problem in pasture & hay
Symptoms: H: Slobbering, sweating. C: Bloat (usually from moldy clover in hay)
Recovery: Remove from source; recovery in 24 hours
Control Methods: Rehabilitate pasture; herbicides: 2,4-D, Weedmaster, Curtail, Tordon.



Plant: Red Maple
Other Plants in Class:
Animals Affected: H
Most Toxic Part or Time: Dry leaves - when fall from tree or if felled by humans or weather. Fresh leaves do not appear to be toxic.
Symptoms: Damage and loss of red blood cells; increased heart & respiratory rate, darkening of mouth and eye membranes, weakness, depression, brown or red urine, jaundice; death within 18 hrs to 10 days.
Recovery: Intensive long-term care required;
Control Methods: Keep animals from area during critical periods; remove dead limbs/leaves.



Plant: Showy milkweed
Other Plants in Class: Milkweed family, foxglove
Animals Affected: S,C,H,G
Most Toxic Part or Time: Problem in pasture or hay/most dangerous early grazing season when little else available. Toxicity retained in drying (hay).
Symptoms: Depression, weakness, disturbed equilibrium, salivation, bloating, difficult breathing, rapid/weak pulse, coma, death. Signs in 2 hours; death in 1-2 days.
Recovery: Usually found dead; if animal lives past a couple of days, may take a few weeks to recover.
Control Methods: Perennial, spreading by seed & underground rootstocks; can dig out or till. Herbicides: Glyphosate, Tordon



Plant: St. Johnswort
Other Plants in Class: Buckwheat, Dutchman's breeches, Bishop's weed
Animals Affected: H,C,P,S,G
Most Toxic Part or Time: Spring - mostly due to lack of forage
Symptoms: White skinned animals: Restlessness, intense itching, sunburn, necrosis of ears, diarrhea, swollen eyelids/ conjunctivitis/ occasional blindness, rapid respiration, elevated temperature, convulsions. Can result in death in severe cases.
Recovery: Remove from source; treat skin lesions & ulcerations; keep out of sun
Control Methods: Somewhat shallow roots - active cultivation. 2,4-D, Weedmaster, Curtail, Escort



Plant: Sweetclovers

Other Plants in Class:

Animals Affected: C, occ.S,P

Most Toxic Part or Time: Problem from improper curing of hay, causes molding of sweetclover. Toxin remains in hay for at least 3 or 4 years.

Symptoms: Dicoumarin prevents blood clotting. Hemorrhages often not visible until too late, extra amounts of blood in joints & bruised areas, bleeding from nose or digestive tract, dullness, anemia, abortions, stillborn or weak calves.

Recovery: Mortality high unless recognized & treated

Control Methods: Cure hay properly or rehabilitate field. Herbicides:2,4-D, Weedmaster, Curtail, Tordon.



Plant: Tall fescue

Other Plants in Class: Alta, Kentucky

Animals Affected: C,P,H,S

Most Toxic Part or Time: Problem in pasture or hay; but generally a winter problem when animals will graze anything.

Symptoms: C: Lameness and swelling, shivering. Lameness may take 8 days to 6 months after ingestion. Dry gangrene in feet (fescue foot), sloughing of dead tissue, loss of weight. S: weight & condition loss. H: delayed birthing, still birth.

Recovery: Good prognosis; can sometimes salvage pregnancies if caught 60 days prior.

Control Methods: Glyphosate is the only herbicide; may need to till & start pasture over.



Plant: Tansy ragwort

Other Plants in Class: Groundsels

Animals Affected: H,C,S,P

Most Toxic Part or Time: All

Symptoms: Acute: Liver damage, dullness, weakness, abdominal pain and death in a few days or weeks. Chronic: Loss of condition, nervous tics, derangement, mania, staggering gait, prostration. P: fever & respiratory problems.

Recovery: Usually not treatable - ends in termination.

Control Methods: Biennial or short-lived perennial; dig out roots or actively till. Herbicides: 2,4-D, Tordon, Banvel, Weedmaster, Milestone, Escort



Plant: Timber milkvetch

Other Plants in Class:

Animals Affected: H,C,S,P

Most Toxic Part or Time: Leaves; all parts somewhat toxic. Most toxic mid-summer. Loses toxicity after seeding.

Symptoms: Chronic: several months to several years, nervousness, weakness, depraved appetite, impaired vision, "cracker-heel" or "roaring" diseases. Acute: Heart failure and respiratory paralysis, lesions in internal organs.

Recovery: Can develop immunity; severe poisoning impossible to treat.

Control Methods: Rehabilitate pasture; herbicides: 2,4-D, Weedmaster, Curtail, Tordon



Plant: Toadflaxes
Other Plants in Class: Snapdragons
Animals Affected: All?
Most Toxic Part or Time: All?
Symptoms: Symptoms of cyanide poisoning, colic, respiratory problems
Recovery: No known deaths
Control Methods: Active tilling, prevent seed production & dig out roots (difficult);
Herbicides: 2,4-D w/good surfactant, Banvel, Tordon, Telar, Plateau



Plant: Western waterhemlock
Other Plants in Class: Spotted hemlock, cowbane, wild parsnip
Animals Affected: All
Most Toxic Part or Time: Root & young leaves; all parts
Symptoms: Usually found dead; symptoms within 20 minutes - dead within 1 hour. If seen, salivation, muscular twitching, jaw champing, teeth grinding, muscular spasms, convulsions, respiratory paralysis.
Recovery: Rarely able to treat. If live for 2 hours, prognosis is good.
Control Methods: Perennial; dig taproot out & burn - use rubber gloves to handle; tilling, but keep animals out because roots stay toxic; prevention of seed production. Herbicides: 2,4-D, Rodeo



The Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control Department does not recommend any product or company.
All brand names listed are for resource purposes only.

Want more information? Contact:

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