

Poisonous Plants

Avoiding Poison in the Pasture, Part 2

From Issue No. 4, The Performance Horse

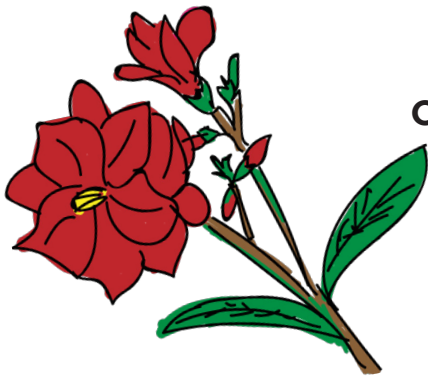
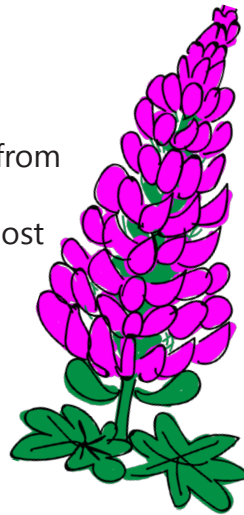
Be Prepared

Prevention is the best medicine when it comes to toxic plants, and ensuring your horse has adequate pasture is the best strategy for avoiding potentially fatal poisoning.

More plants to look out for:

LUPINE

- Coloured pea shaped flowers, found in locations from beaches to high mountain pastures
- Young growths and those close to seed are the most poisonous
- Can cause: diarrhea, convulsions, gastrointestinal irritation, loss of muscle control

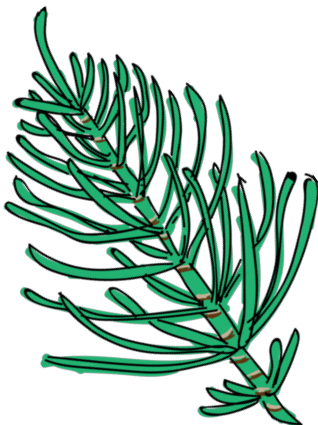


OLEANDER

- Popular ornamental plant, common to warm climates
- Shrub with large flowers that come in a range of colours
- Largely unpalatable to horses, but often accidentally mixed into grass clippings
- Small volume is highly toxic (1 oz. lethal to a 1,000 lb horse)
- Can cause: colic, sweating, bloody diarrhea, arrhythmia, & difficulty breathing

TANSY RAGWORT

- Irregular leaves with yellow flowers in a flat topped cluster
- Common to North America
- Can cause: liver failure, weakness, high temperature, diarrhea, and lethargy
- Remains toxic when dry and can be found in hay
- No cure for ragwort poisoning currently exists



HORSETAIL

- Green, long stalked with thin angled papery leaves
- Common in North America, often found in and around bogs and streams
- Can cause: weakness, loss of appetite, unresponsiveness, abnormal heart rate, and death
- Toxin in the plant destroys B1 (thiamine) in the body



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