

## POISONOUS PLANTS

**Below are some native plants that are poisonous to horses and other equidae species. Is no way this list comprehensive of native poisonous plants. This should be used for guidance only. In the evident of intoxicification veterinary advise should always been sort.**

### **ACORN** (*Quercus spp*)



#### **MEDIUM RISK**

Ingestion has been reported to cause digestive upsets including constipation or blood in the dung and weakness and staggering.

Rake Acorns from fields before grazing during the Autumn season.

### **BOX**(*Buxus sempervirens*)



#### **HIGH RISK**

Reported cases of poisoning present with neurological signs and breathing problems

Evergreen

### **BRAKEN** (*Pteridium aquilinum*)



#### **HIGH RISK**

Ingestion can alter the heart rate and cause incoordination, staggers, muscle tremors and star gazing.

Young plants are more poisonous than older plants.

Naturally occurring perennial

## BRYONY



## MEDIUM RISK

Two forms, Black and White Bryony are dangerous to horses. Reported cases demonstrated increased sweating, digestive system upsets and neurological signs. White Bryony roots are particularly toxic and should be burnt. Perennial plant found mainly in hedgerows

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**24hr Emergency Service Available**

## FOXGLOVE (*Digitalis purpurea*)



## HIGH RISK

Ingestion has been shown to cause irregular heart rate resulting in weakness. Also digestive tract upset including diarrhoea.

## HORSETAIL (*Equisetum spp*)



## HIGH RISK

Ingestion can cause neurological problems and kidney failure if large amounts are eaten. Can be fatal.

A spore reproducing plant that can regrow from its roots if not removed.

## LABURNUM (*Laburnum anagyroides*)

## HIGH RISK

The yellow flowers are seen early summer and produce



**PRIVET** (*Ligustrum species*)



green hanging pods late summer/autumn. The pods, seeds, bark and roots are all potentially poisonous containing the alkaloid cytisine. Cases of ingestion show inco-ordination, sweating, abdominal pain and may lead to neurological involvement and convulsions.

**HIGH RISK**

Reported cases show involvement of the nervous system with signs such as staggering and pupil dilation progressing with time.

Deciduous plant common in woodland and as ornamental garden vegetation.

**RAGWORT** (*Senecio Jacobaea*)



**HIGH RISK**

Ingestion can cause clinical symptoms immediately or sometimes in the weeks /months to follow. Reported cases show digestive disturbances, weight loss, apparent blindness, head pressing and skin changes from photosensitisation.

Ragwort is still toxic even when dried so is a risk in contaminated hay. Plants should be uprooted and burnt preferably before they seed as the seeds can lay dormant for many years. Gloves should always be worn during handling.

Perennial

**RHODODENDRON** (*Rhododendron ponticum*)

**HIGH RISK**

Cases of ingestion have been reported to show digestive system disturbances including abdominal pain and progressing to neurological system involvement.

A plant commonly found in woodland and ornamental in



**ST JOHNS WART** (*Hypericum perforatum*)

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gardens.

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**MEDIUM RISK**



**YEW** (*Taxus baccata*)

Ingestion can cause skin changes from photosensitisation.  
Also lethargy and anorexia.

Can still be dangerous even if dried.

**HIGH RISK**



Highly toxic and can be rapidly fatal upon ingestion. All parts of the plants apart from the red flesh of surrounding the seed contains poisonous alkaloids.

Evergreen plant

### Removal of plants

If you find any of these plants in your horse's fields they should be removed immediately. Gloves are advisable for removal for your own safety particularly for Ragwort. Remove the entire plant including the roots to avoid regrowth or ingestion of the roots. Fence off any trees or shrubs or hedgerows.

Once removed dead plants should not be left near the field and can easily be burnt.

All photographs are referenced from source (please see below).