

Links

Canadian Poisonous Plant Info System

<http://www.cbif.gc.ca/pls/pp/poison>

Museum of Nova Scotia

<http://museum.gov.ns.ca/poison/default.asp>

For more information, please contact your local Agrifoods office or the Animal Health Division.

Other information pamphlets are available online from the Department of Natural Resources at:

www.nr.gov.nl.ca/agric/

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Plants Poisonous to Livestock in Newfoundland and Labrador



Introduction

There are many plants in Newfoundland and Labrador that are toxic to farm animals. The cost to our agricultural industry of animals poisoned by these plants is significant. Poisoned animals may die or become sick enough that their profitability is decreased. Every year, much effort is expended in treatments of these animals and attempts to rid pastures of the poisonous plants. This pamphlet is the first in a series on poisonous plants in this province. Further pamphlets in this series will deal with the specifics of the more common poisonous plants.

General Considerations

The folk wisdom that animals somehow know what is safe to eat has been shown to be false by the many farm animals that are poisoned every year. Many ornamental house plants are dangerous but wild weeds, garden flowers and vegetables are the major concerns for farm animals.

The effects of poisonous plants are determined largely by the amount of plant ingested. Animals that are very hungry or moved suddenly onto a pasture filled with harmful plants will tend to eat large amounts. Other factors such as the species of livestock, their age, size, nutritional status and health will be important in determining how sick the animal becomes.

Signs of Plant Poisoning

When animals become sick suddenly for no apparent reason, especially if large numbers are involved or a new pasture is being used, plant poisoning should be suspected. Your local Agricultural office can help arrange plant identification, veterinary diagnosis and treatment.

Animals suspected of being poisoned should be immediately removed from the suspect pasture. If the plants have been ingested quite recently, attempts to induce diarrhea to remove the toxins may be helpful. Specific treatment depends on the quantity and type of plant that was eaten.



Figure 1: Braken Fern - *Pteridium aquilinum*

List of Poisonous Plants

The following list outlines some of the more common poisonous plants found in Newfoundland and Labrador. The toxicity of these plants range from relatively benign species, which only cause symptoms when ingested in huge quantities (such as Alfalfa and Clover), to the dangerous plants that can easily cause death (such as Sheep Laurel and Climbing Nightshade).

1. Alfalfa - *Medicago sativa*
2. Bindweed - *Convolvulus arvensis*
3. Black Eyed Susan - *Rudbeckia hirta*
4. Blue Flag Iris - *Iris versicolor*
5. Bog Laurel - *Kalmia polifolia*
6. Braken Fern - *Pteridium aquilinum*
7. Bulbs (Tulip, Daffodil,...) - *Tulipa*, *Narcissus spp.*, etc.
8. Butter-and-Eggs - *Linnaria vulgaris*
9. Buttercups - *Ranunculus spp.*
10. Canada Rhododendron - *Rhododendron Canadensis*
11. Chinese Cabbage - *Brassica rapa (pekinensis)* 'Michihli'
12. Chives - *Allium schoenoprasum*
13. Climbing Nightshade - *Solanum dulcamara*
14. Clovers (Red, White, Yellow & Alsike) - *Trifolium spp.*
15. Comfrey - *Symphytum spp.*
16. Common Groundsel - *Senecio vulgaris*
17. Common Burdock - *Arctium minus*
18. Curled Dock - *Rumex crispus*
19. Daphne - *Daphne spp.*
20. Elder Berry - *Sambucus spp.*
21. English Ivy - *Hedera helix*
22. Fescue - *Festuca spp.*
23. Foxglove - *Digitalis spp.*
24. Goldenrods - *Solidago spp.*
25. Horse Chestnut - *Aesculus hippocastanum*
26. Hydrangea - *Hydrangea spp.*
27. Joe-Pye-Weed - *Eupatorium purpureum*
28. Lambs Quarters - *Chenopodium album*
29. Larkspur - *Delphinium spp.*
30. Lupines - *Lupinus spp.*
31. Marsh Marigold - *Caltha palustris*
32. Mustards - *Brassica spp.*
33. Oaks - *Quercus spp.*
34. Oats - *Avena sativa*
35. Onions - *Allium spp.*
36. Potatoes - *Solanum spp.*
37. Radish - *Raphanus sativus*
38. Red Maple - *Acer rubrum*
39. Reed Canary Grass - *Phalaris arundinacea*
40. Rhubarb - *Rheum spp.*
41. Serviceberry - *Amelanchier spp.*
42. Sheep Laurel - *Kalmia angustifolia*
43. Sorrel - *Rumex acetosella*
44. St. John's Wort - *Hypericum perforatum*
45. Stinging Nettle - *Urtica dioica*
46. Tansy Ragwort - *Senecio jacobaea*
47. Turnip and Rape Seed - *Brassica rapa*
48. Viper's Bugloss - *Echium vulgare*
49. Wild Cabbage - *Brassica oleracea*
50. Wild Cherries (Choke and Pin) - *Prunus spp.*
51. Winter Cress - *Barbarea vulgaris*
52. Yarrow - *Achillea millefolium*
53. Yews - *Taxus spp.*