

NOXIOUS WEED FACT SHEET

Common Toxic Weeds in Thurston County

Common Name	Scientific name	Poison Symptoms	Causative agent	Animals affected
Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus species</i>	Toxin is fatal in high dosages; doesn't retain toxicity in hay, sap irritates skin and mucous membranes, taints milk of cattle that graze on it, can be addictive to cattle.	protoanemonin	Cattle, sheep can tolerate greater quantities
Coast fiddleneck	<i>Amsinchia intermedia</i>	Hepatic cirrhosis, dermatitis	Pyrrolizidine alkaloids	All
Common groundsel	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Acute and chronic liver damage, colic, and death.	alkaloids	All
Death camass	<i>Zigedenus paniculatus</i>	Weakness, prostration, convulsions, coma and death. High mortality.	alkaloid	Cattle, sheep, goats
False hellebore	<i>Veratrum californicum</i>	Birth defects, prolonged gestation, depressed hear action, weakness, dyspnea	Alkaloids (veratrum)	sheep
Field horsetail	<i>Equisetaceae</i>	Unthriftiness; weakness especially in the hind quarters; lack of normal coordination; muscular rigidity; constipation; appetite normal until just befor death.	Alkaloids	All, particularly horses
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Initial irritation to the mouth and vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea, death	Cardiac glycosides	All
Jimsonweed	<i>Datura stamonium</i>	Intense thirst, disturbed vision, delirium, violent behavior, can cause death	Solanaceous alkaloids, topone alkaloids, atropine	Most, including birds and humans, but not pigs
Larkspur	<i>Delphinium spp.</i>	Constipation, bloat; death results from respiratory/cardiac failure.	Alkaloid (delphinine)	cattle
Lupine	<i>Lupinus spp.</i>	Spasms, birth defects, cerebral excitement and death within 48 hours.	Alkaloids (lupinine, lupanine)	Cattle, sheep, goats, horses

Mayweed chamomile	<i>Anthemis cotula</i>	Contact dermatitis with blistering of livestock muzzles, irritation to mucous membranes.	Lactones (sesquiterpenes)	cattle
Nightshades	<i>Solanum spp.</i>	Diarrhea, incoordination, paralysis, convulsions, death.	Glycoside and alkaloid(solanina)	Swine, sheep, goats
Poison hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Paralysis of skeletal muscle nerves, death due to respiratory failure, birth defects.	Alkaloid (γ-coniceine)	All
Spurge Laurel	<i>Daphne laureola</i>	Skin and eye irritation Blistering Nausea, vomiting and diarrhea Burning mouth and throat	Tricyclic daphnane, tiglane diterpenes and coumaris glycosides	All mammals
St. Johnswort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Photosensitization; blisters and scabs about eyes, mouth, ears, nose, feet.	Helianthone (hypericin)	White/light skinned cattle, sheep, goats, hogs
Tall fescue and Perennial ryegrass Turf Type	<i>Festuca arundinacea and Lolium perenne</i>	Reduced feed intake, salivation, rough hair, reduced reproductive capacity.	Endopyte fungus (Note: Seed label will say "not for grazing")	Cattle, horses,
Western Brackenfern	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Fatal hemorrhagic syndromes; cancer in cattle; induced thiamine deficiency in non-ruminants with weight loss, progressive incoordination and convulsions or spasms.	Thiaminase enzyme, glycosides	Cattle, sheep, horses
Yellow Starthistle	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Animals are unable to eat and die of starvation or thirst (chewing disease).	unidentified	horses
Tansy Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Liver lesions, staggering weakness, and death	Pyrrrolizidine alkaloids	All
Water hemlock	<i>Cicuta maculata</i>	Irritant action on nerve and muscle cells; spasms; death after 30 minutes.	cicutoxin	All



Thurston County Noxious Weed Program

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