



WorldHorseWelfare

World Horse Welfare's Pocket Photo Guide to Poisonous Plants



www.worldhorsewelfare.org

Registered Charity no: 206658 and SC038384

World Horse Welfare's pocket guide lists some of the key plants that pose a risk to horses*.

This is not a definitive list so please seek further advice as required.

The name of each toxic plant is colour-coded based on a combination of the potential consequences and the likelihood of exposure: **red** for those that pose a high risk and **orange** for those that pose a medium to low risk. However, it is important to note that

some plants in the orange category can still be fatal, but they are categorised as such because they are less likely to be found in normal pasture. Additionally, the way each horse reacts to exposure to toxic plants depends on a number of factors including his or her age and health status.

Some plants cause mild reactions which can be resolved with topical treatments, whilst others have much more extreme effects, such as weight-loss, difficulty in breathing,

blindness, collapse, convulsions and even sudden death. Sometimes there are no visible signs at all until the damage is irreversible.

Don't take any risks - if you can't identify a plant in your paddocks as safe, do not allow horses to access it until you have confirmed that it is.

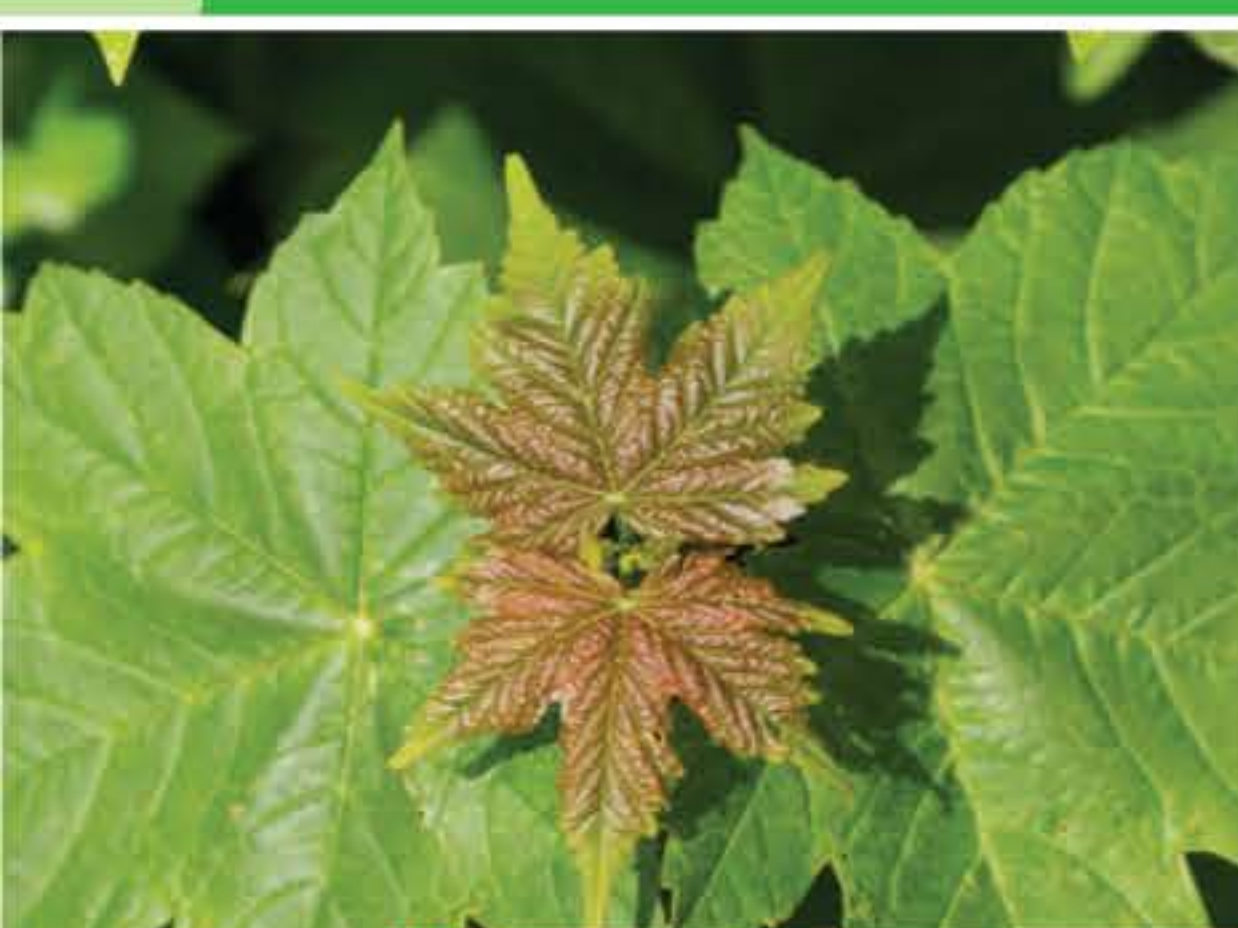
**The term 'horse' throughout refers to all horses, ponies, donkeys and their hybrids.*



Yew



Deadly nightshade



Sycamore



Oak & acorns



Privet



Horses in field with ragwort



Ragwort



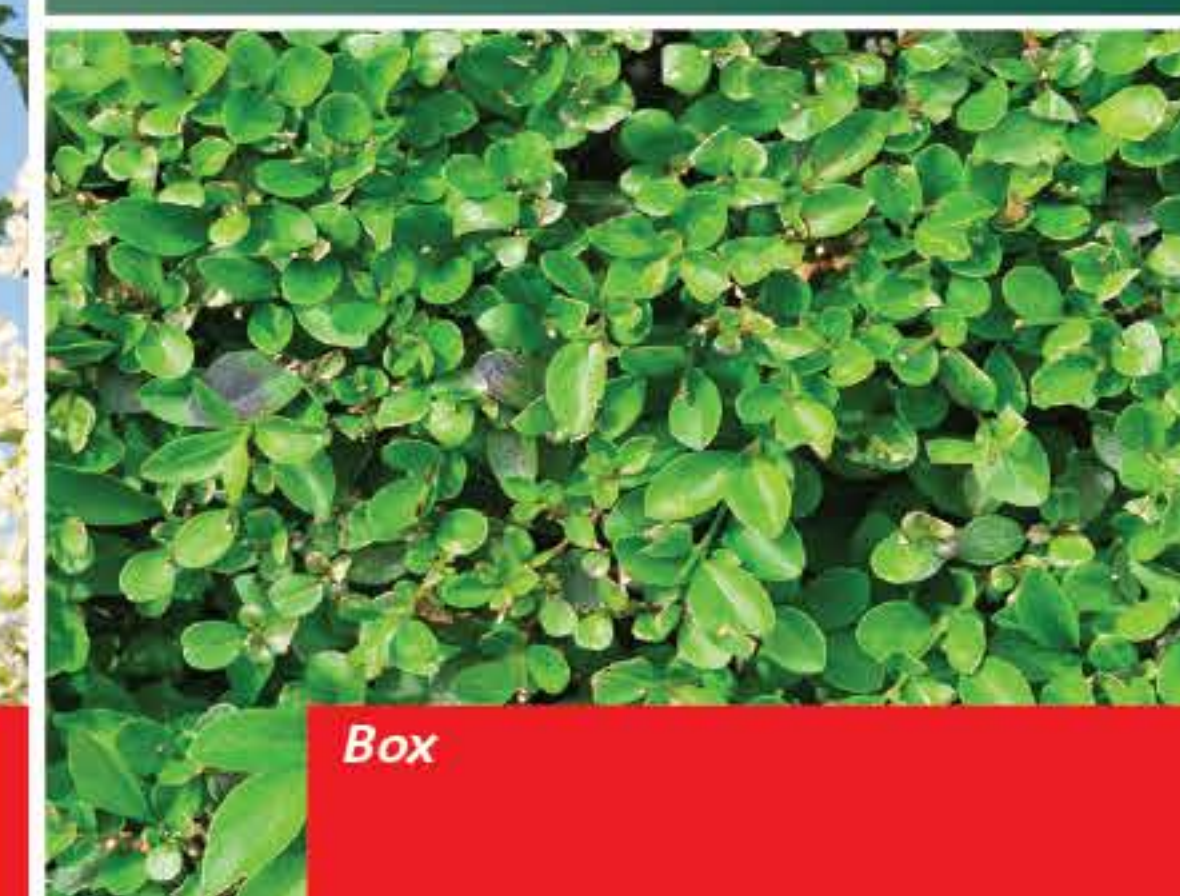
Foxglove



Hemlock

It is essential that all owners take whatever steps they can to protect their horses and minimise the risk of exposure to toxic plants.

In any cases where poisoning is suspected, veterinary advice should be sought without delay.



Box



Laurel



Laburnum

There is a common misconception that horses will only eat poisonous plants if they have nothing else to graze on, but in fact horses can ingest plants accidentally and have even been known to develop a taste for toxic plants or seeds such as acorns. Some plants, such as ragwort, can lose their bitter taste when dried meaning that any found in hay or haylage, or leaves that have fallen off the plant and died, can very easily be eaten unknowingly and will be just as harmful as the living plant.



Horsetails



Rhododendron



Thorn Apple / Jimsonweed



Larkspur



Bracken



Cowbane / Water Hemlock



Marsh Marigold



Lupin



Buttercups



Ivy

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5 TOP TIPS!

1. Ongoing land management is essential to keep animals and people safe.
2. When removing toxic plants keep yourself safe: wear protective clothing, use the correct tools and dispose of anything you remove in an appropriate manner (seek advice from your local council).
3. Act immediately if you suspect that a horse has been poisoned. Contact the owner of the horse, a vet or a welfare organisation.
4. If you suspect poisoning, never attempt to medicate a horse yourself as you could cause further damage. Instead seek immediate guidance from a vet.
5. If injurious or toxic plants are not being dealt with by the landowner contact your local authority for advice.

For more advice about good
pasture management please
contact World Horse Welfare's
Advice Line on
01953 497238

If you are concerned about a
horse you have seen, please
call our UK Welfare Line:
08000 480180

