

Common poisonous shrubs & trees

Often incorporated into landscapes for their aesthetic appeal, these plants pose a health hazard to horses who encounter them.

NAME (Scientific name)	RANGE	DANGER	TOXICITY LEVEL	CLINICAL SIGNS
SHRUBS				
azalea/laurel/rhododendron (<i>Rhododendron</i> spp.)	throughout North America	all parts of plant	moderate	acute colic, diarrhea, excessive salivation, depression, incoordination, stupor, heart irregularity
oleander (<i>Nerium oleander</i>)	southern United States	all parts of plant, fresh or dried	very high	colic, sweating, bloody diarrhea, difficult breathing, arrhythmia
yellow oleander (<i>Thevetia peruviana</i>)	southern United States	all parts of plant	very high	colic, sweating, bloody diarrhea, difficult breathing, arrhythmia, tetany
yew (<i>Taxus</i> spp.)	throughout United States	all parts of plant, fresh or dried	very high	heart irregularity, nervousness, difficult breathing, incoordination, convulsions, death
TREES				
avocado (<i>Persea americana</i>)	southern United States	fruit, seeds, leaves	moderate	diarrhea, colic, edema, noninfectious mastitis in lactating mares
black locust (<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>)	throughout United States; southern Canada	bark and seeds; new growth is most toxic	moderate	diarrhea or constipation, appetite loss, stupor, laminitis
black walnut (<i>Juglans nigra</i>)	northeastern, central United States	wood shavings used as bedding	high	edema in legs, increased heart/respiratory rates, increased temperature, laminitis
chokecherry/wild black cherry (<i>Prunus</i> spp.)	throughout United States	very young or wilted leaves, if eaten in large quantities	low	tremors, frequent urination/defecation, gasping, convulsions
horse chestnut/buckeye (<i>Aesculus</i> spp.)	eastern, southern United States	sprouts, leaves, seeds	moderate	muscle tremors, incoordination
oak (<i>Quercus</i> spp.)	throughout North America	young leaves, acorns, bark	variable	colic, constipation followed by bloody diarrhea, frequent urination, kidney failure
red maple (<i>Acer rubrum</i>)	eastern half of United States	wilted or dried leaves, bark	high	dark/discolored mucous membranes, brown/red urine, depression, colic