



# Common poisonous weeds & wildflowers

Though not particularly tasty, these 22 pasture invaders can seriously jeopardize a horse's health when eaten.

NAME (Scientific name)	RANGE	TOXICITY LEVEL	CLINICAL SIGNS
<b>bracken fern</b> ( <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> )	forested areas	low	emaciation, incoordination, depression, blindness
<b>buttercup</b> ( <i>Ranunculus</i> spp.)	wet areas in North America	variable	diarrhea, salivation
<b>castor-oil plant</b> ( <i>Ricinus communis</i> )	tropical areas	high	constipation or diarrhea, no appetite, labored breathing, sweating, death
<b>death camas</b> ( <i>Zigadenus</i> spp.)	throughout North America	moderate to high	stiff-leggedness, hypersensitivity, weakness, convulsions
<b>fiddleneck</b> ( <i>Amsinckia intermedia</i> )	Pacific Coast	moderate	weight loss, jaundice, anemia, photosensitivity, liver failure
<b>foxglove</b> ( <i>Digitalis purpurea</i> )	western United States	high	diarrhea, labored rapid breathing, cardiac irregularities
<b>hound's-tongue</b> ( <i>Cynoglossum officinale</i> )	throughout North America	high	weakness, liver failure, incoordination, yellow mucous membranes
<b>jimsonweed</b> ( <i>Datura stramonium</i> )	throughout North America	moderate	excitability then depression, dilation of pupils, colic, diarrhea
<b>johnsongrass</b> ( <i>Sorghum halapense</i> )	southern states	moderate	urinary incontinence, bladder infection, weakness of the hind legs, staggering gait
<b>larkspur</b> ( <i>Delphinium</i> spp.)	midwest, western United States	low	hypersensitivity, trembling, collapse, convulsions
<b>locoweed</b> ( <i>Astragalus</i> and <i>Oxytropis</i> spp.)	southwest, western North America	high	"loco" behavior, incoordination, odd head carriage, weight loss
<b>milkweed</b> ( <i>Asclepias</i> spp.)	throughout North America	high	incoordination, depression, shallow breathing, unsteadiness, coma, heart irregularity
<b>monkshood</b> ( <i>Aconitum</i> spp.)	midwest, western United States	high	hypersensitivity, trembling, collapse, convulsions
<b>nightshade</b> ( <i>Solanum</i> spp.)	throughout North America	moderate	trembling, incoordination, diarrhea, colic
<b>poison hemlock</b> ( <i>Conium maculatum</i> )	throughout North America	high	trembling, incoordination, salivation, colic, shallow breathing, coma
<b>pokeweed</b> ( <i>Phytolacca americana</i> )	eastern, southern United States	low	diarrhea
<b>ragwort/groundsel</b> ( <i>Senecio</i> spp.)	throughout North America	high	weakness, liver failure, incoordination, yellow mucous membranes
<b>sagebrush</b> ( <i>Artemisia</i> spp.)	western North America	low to moderate	forelimb incoordination, falling, excitability
<b>Saint-John's wort/Klamath weed</b> ( <i>Hypericum</i> spp.)	plains, western states	moderate	photosensitivity
<b>water hemlock</b> ( <i>Cicuta</i> spp.)	throughout North America	very high	violent spasms, rapid respiration and heart rate, coma, death
<b>white snakeroot</b> ( <i>Eupatorium</i> spp.)	wooded/shaded areas in eastern and southern United States	high	spread-legged stance, sweating, stumbling, congestive heart failure
<b>yellow star thistle</b> ( <i>Centaurea solstitialis</i> )/ <b>Russian knapweed</b> ( <i>Acroptilon repens</i> )	western United States	low	inability to chew and swallow food, tongue lolling, "grinning" expression, death from starvation 🐾