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/



Newfoundland Labrador

Plants Poisonous to Livestock in Newfoundland and Labrador

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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. 33.0aks - Quercus spp. 34.0ats - 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.