



Resources:

**Canadian Biodiversity Information
Facility (CBIF)**

cbif.gc.ca/pls/pp/poison

**For more information, please contact
the Animal Health Division.**

Plants Poisonous to Livestock in Newfoundland & Labrador

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Designed for livestock owners,
farmers, and anyone involved in
animal care, this brochure provides
essential information on identifying
and managing toxic vegetation.

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Figure 1. St. John's Wort

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.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Wild greens, garden flowers and vegetables are the major concerns for farm animals.

The effect of poisonous plants are determined largely by the amount ingested. Animals that are very hungry or moved suddenly into pasture filled with harmful plants tend to eat large amounts. Other factors such as 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 diagnoses and treatment.

Animals suspected of being poisoned should be immediately removed from the suspected pasture.

If plants have been ingested recently, attempts to induce diarrhea to remove the toxins may be helpful. Specific treatment depends on the quantity and type of plant.

POISONOUS PLANTS

The following outlines some of the more common poisonous plants found in Newfoundland and Labrador. The toxicity of these plants range from relatively benign to death.

Common Name:	Botanical Name
• Alfafa	• <i>Medigo sativa</i>
• Bindweed	• <i>Convolvus arevensis</i>
• Black Eyed Susan	• <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>
• Blue Flag Iris	• <i>Iris versicolor</i>
• Bog Laurel	• <i>Kalmia polifolia</i>
• Braken Fern	• <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>
• Bulbs (tulips, daffodil)	• <i>Tulipa, Narcissus spp.</i>
• Butter-and Eggs	• <i>Linnaria vulgaris</i>
• Buttercups	• <i>Ranunculus spp.</i>
• Canada Rhododendron	• <i>Rhododendron Canaadensis</i>
• Chinese Cabbage	• <i>Brassica rapa</i>
• Chives	• <i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>
• Climbing Nightshade	• <i>Solanum dulcamara</i>
• Clovers	• <i>Trifolium spp.</i>
• Comfrey	• <i>Symphytum spp.</i>
• Common Groundsel	• <i>Senecio vulgaris</i>
• Common Burdock	• <i>Arctium minus</i>
• Curled Dock	• <i>Rumex crispus</i>

POISONOUS PLANTS

Common Name:	Botanical Name
• Daphne	• <i>Daphne spp.</i>
• Elder Berry	• <i>Sambucus spp.</i>
• English Ivy	• <i>Hedera helix</i>
• Fescue	• <i>Festuca spp.</i>
• Foxglove	• <i>Digitalis spp.</i>
• Goldenrods	• <i>Solidago spp.</i>
• Horse Chesnut	• <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>
• Hydrangea	• <i>Hydrangea spp.</i>
• Joe-Pye-Weed	• <i>Eupatorium purpureum</i>
• Lambs Quarters	• <i>Chenopodium album</i>
• Larkspur	• <i>Delphinium spp.</i>
• Lupines	• <i>Lupinus spp.</i>
• Marsh Marigold	• <i>Catha palustris</i>
• Mustards	• <i>Brassica spp.</i>
• Oaks	• <i>Quercus spp.</i>
• Oats	• <i>Avena sativa</i>
• Onions	• <i>Allium spp.</i>
• Potatoes	• <i>Solanum spp.</i>
• Radish	• <i>Raphanus sativus</i>
• Red Maple	• <i>Acer rubrum</i>
• Reed Canary Grass	• <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>
• Rhubarb	• <i>Rheum spp.</i>
• Serviceberry	• <i>Amelanchier spp.</i>
• Sheep Laurel	• <i>Kalmia agustifolia</i>
• Sorrel	• <i>Rumex acetosella</i>
• St. John's Wort	• <i>Hypericum perforatum</i>
• Stinging Nettle	• <i>Urtica dioica</i>
• Tansy Ragwort	• <i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
• Turnip and Rape Seed	• <i>Brassica rapa</i>
• Viper's Bugloss	• <i>Echium vulgare</i>
• Wild Cabbage	• <i>Brassica oleracea</i>
• Wild Cherries	• <i>Prunus spp.</i>
• Winter Cress	• <i>Barbarea vulgaris</i>
• Yarrow	• <i>Achillea millefolium</i>
• Yews	• <i>Taxus spp.</i>