**Poisonous Plants**

**Important Facts:**
- Under normal circumstances horses will not eat toxic plants
- Most toxic ingestions occur in the spring and summer
- Most toxic ingestions are the result of consuming the toxin for an extended period of time (weeks or months)
- Water hemlock & Yew are the exception with only a single mouthful being fatal
- Circumstances that increase the incidence of toxic ingestions: overgrazing, drought, excessive moisture, soil mineral imbalances (i.e. selenium), application of fertilizers or herbicides (i.e. nitrates)
- Toxic plants are generally grouped according to the main clinical effect of the plant toxin
- Know what toxic plants are in your pasture & follow good pasture management guidelines (avoid overgrazing, mow pastures at least twice a year, etc.)

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**Water Hemlock**
Alkaloid Sudden Death

**Yew (taxus sp.)**
Alkaloid Sudden Death

**Milkweed**
Cardiogenic Sudden Death

**Dogbane**
Cardiogenic Sudden Death
Wild Black Cherry
Cyanogenic Sudden Death

St. John Wort
Photodermatitis

Johnson Grass
Cyanogenic Sudden Death

Yellow Star Thistle
Neurological

Russian Knapweed
Neurological

White Snakeroot
Neurological

Jimson Weed
Colic & Diarrhea

Buttercups
Colic & Diarrhea
- Horse Nettle: Excessive Salivation
- Sweet Clover: Vitamin K Deficiency
- Bracken Fern: Thiamin Deficiency