

Overview

Many common plants found growing in the gardens and across the lifestyle blocks of the district can pose a potential risk to your stock.

While most toxic plants taste bitter and are usually avoided by stock, occasionally hunger, curiosity, boredom, or a deceptively tasty plant can lead to illness. Goats have a notorious reputation for being relatively open to sampling many various plants if they manage get access to them.

You should assume that all garden shrubs are potentially toxic. Some plants can result in immediate adverse effects, and some can cause a delayed poisoning. Certain plants only cause toxicity if eaten in large amounts while others can be toxic with a low dose. And some plants can be just as toxic regardless of whether they are fresh, dried, or ensiled.

Contact your Vet if you are unsure about any plant you are planning to feed, or your animals have access to.

Management practices to avoid toxicity:

- Do not give your animals any clippings from your garden
- If supplying the animals with browse trees, ensure they are safe to eat
- Kill off or pull-out poisonous plants in a pasture, e.g., ragwort, bracken fern.
- Make sure fences are especially sturdy around your garden.
- Avoid allowing stock to graze garden plants or hedges
- Monitor paddocks after a storm for any fallen branches or acorns
- Fence off wetlands
- Beware of illness when rain comes after a period of drought

Common plants that can cause toxicity:

Acorns
Avocado
Azalea
Black Nightshade



LIFESTYLE ANIMALS: A GUIDE TO Poisonous Plants

Box Hedge
Buttercup
Foxglove
Goats Rue
Hemlock
Karako – Berries
Laburnum
Laurel
Lillies
Macrocarpa/ Pine species
Ngaio
Oak – leaves and acorns
Oleander
Onions
Poroporo
Ragwort
Rhododendron
Rhubarb
Sorrel species
St. Johns Wort
Tradescantia
Tutu
Yew



Acorns



Ragwort

Signs of toxic plant ingestion:

- Abnormal vocalising
- Bloat
- Diarrhoea
- Discoloured urine
- Excessive salivation or frothing at the mouth
- Other neurological signs – excessive trembling, circling, abnormal gait
- Seizuring
- Sudden death

- Vomiting
- Weakness/lethargy

First aid for toxic plant ingestion:

1. Remove the animal from access to the plant
2. Empty mouth if possible
3. Make sure the animal has access to water - if the animal is vomiting you will need to change the water each time to prevent contamination and re-toxicity
4. Keep animal walking if possible, to prevent it settling and cudding
5. **Call a VET urgently for advice/ a visit if required**
6. Be careful with drenching “home remedy drenches”. Ensure they will not exacerbate the problem. If you do choose to then give it only in small amounts and be very careful not to force it down the animal – there is a risk of the animal could aspirate into the lungs.
7. Avoid drenching oil-based products
8. Avoid drenching a vomiting animal

*Updated Nov 25