

Consultants to the Professionals!

Answer Sheet to the September Consulting Arborist Quiz

Your client, a line clearance contractor, has received notice of a pending lawsuit. According to the suit, his crew left debris in a pasture after clearing a Utility easement, and this has led to the death of a prized horse. Your client may have left portions of which of the following plants in the pasture?

1. RED OAK *Quercus rubra*

Answer - YES TOXICITY RATING: Moderate high. ANIMALS AFFECTED: All animals may potentially be affected, but the primary risk is to cattle. DANGEROUS PARTS OF PLANT: Buds (fall), young shoots (early spring), sprouts, acorns. CLASS OF SIGNS: Poor doer, poor appetite, weight loss, diarrhea or constipation, increased drinking, increased urination, edema, death is possible.

2. BLACK WALNUT *Juglans nigra*

Answer - YES TOXICITY RATING: Moderately toxic, depending upon length of exposure. ANIMALS AFFECTED: Horses, dogs, possibly other animals. CLASS OF SIGNS: Laminitis, breathing problems, gastroenteritis.

3. BLACK LOCUST *Robinia pseudo-acacia*

Answer - YES TOXICITY RATING: Toxicity is High to moderate. ANIMALS AFFECTED: Horses are particularly at risk, but all animals ingesting the plant may be poisoned. DANGEROUS PARTS OF PLANT: Leaves, especially wilted leaves, young shoots, pods, seeds, inner bark.

4. Mulberry *Morus var.*

Answer - NO Mulberry is fairly low in toxicity. I suppose eaten in great excess it could cause some nausea or vomiting. Best defense is to remove the limb debris when there are valuable animals nearby.

5. WILD or BLACK CHERRY *Prunus serotina*

Answer - YES TOXICITY RATING: High. ANIMALS AFFECTED: All animals may be affected. Ruminants (cattle, sheep, goats, deer) are more at risk than monogastric animals (dogs, cats, pigs, horses) and birds. DANGEROUS PARTS OF PLANT: Damaged leaves pose the greatest risk. All parts are potentially toxic. CLASS OF SIGNS: Anxiety, breathing problems, staggering, convulsions, collapse, death (which may be sudden).

6. OHIO BUCKEYE and HORSECHESTNUT *Aesculus glabra and Aesculus hippocastanum*

Answer - YES TOXICITY RATING: Moderate to high. ANIMALS AFFECTED: All animals may be affected, especially grazing animals and those consuming the honey. DANGEROUS PARTS OF PLANT: Buds, nuts, leaves, bark, seedlings, and honey. CLASS OF SIGNS: Two effects: gastrointestinal and neurologic: excessive salivation, gastrointestinal irritation, vomiting in those species that can vomit, abdominal pain, diarrhea. Neurologic signs can include staggering, trembling, breathing difficulty, dilated pupils, collapse and paralysis, which can proceed to coma and death.

7. WHITE SNAKEROOT *Eupatorium rugosum*

Answer - YES TOXICITY RATING: High. White snakeroot will be eaten, especially in the late summer and fall, and is often lethal. ANIMALS AFFECTED: Cattle, horse, goat, sheep, swine. All grazing animals can be affected by white snakeroot, and the toxin passes in the milk, so nursing animals and humans are also at risk.

Special thank you to Thomas N. Jordan PHD, Professor of Weed Science, Department of Botany and Plant pathology, Purdue University. Please also note that not all the toxic symptoms are express on any animal species each time poisoning occurs, and many of the toxic symptoms are anecdotal reporting by veterinarians. For more info contact Dr. Jordan 765.496.2078 or E-mail: tjordan@purdue.edu
For Toxic plant list see www.vet.purdue.edu/toxic/cover1.htm

Remember, if your claim is worth more than a cup of coffee call me and ask for a "Claim Review", it may save you a lot of time and money!

