

# POISONOUS PLANTS FOR GOATS

GOAT  
NOTES

## ALKALOIDS

A class of nitrogenous organic plant compounds with pronounced physiological actions, often speeding up the heart and turning off the parasympathetic nervous system to the point of death.

- Aconite
- Allspice
- Black Snake Root
- Bloodroot
- Blue Cohosh
- Boxwood
- Celandine
- Common Poppy
- Crotalaria
- Crow Poison
- Datura (Jimsonweed)
- Death Camas
- Dicentra
- False Hellebore
- False Jessamine
- Fume Wort
- Hellebore
- Hemp
- Horse Nettle
- Indian Hemp
- Indian Poke
- Larkspur (Delphinium)
- Lobelia
- Lupines (Bluebonnets)
- Marijuana
- Monkshood
- Moonseed
- Narcissus (Daffodil, Jonquil)
- Nightshades
- Posion Darnel
- Poison Hemlock
- Poison Rye Grass
- Rattleweed
- Rock Poppy
- Senecio
- Spider Lily
- Spotted Cowbane
- Spotted Water Hemlock
- Stagger Grass
- Staggerweed
- Sweet Shrub
- Thorn Apple
- Varebells
- Wild Parsnip
- Wolfs-Bane
- Yellow Jessamine

Foliage from tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, tomatillos, and potatoes, in addition to green potato skins, can cause alkaloid poisoning if ingested in large amounts.

Do you have poisonous plants for goats on your property? Check this list then consult your local veterinarian, county extension office, or local veterinary college for a list of additional problem plants often found in your area.

## CYANOGENICS

Produces hydrogen cyanide, which can cause chronic or acute cyanide poisoning in animals and humans.

- Arrow Grass
- Black Locust
- Blue Cohosh
- Broomcarn
- Buckeye
- Cherry
- Choke Cherry
- Corn Cockle
- Dogbane
- Elderberry
- Hemp
- Horse Nettle
- Indian Hemp
- Ivy
- Johnson Grass
- Kafir
- Laurel
- Leucothoe
- Lily of the Valley
- Maleberry
- Marijuana
- Milkweed
- Milo
- Nightshade
- Oleander
- Rhododendron (Azalea)
- Sevenbark
- Silver
- Sneezewood
- Sorghum
- Stagger Brush
- Sudan Grass
- Velvet Grass
- White Snakeroot
- Wild Black Cherry
- Wild Hydrangea

Though foliage from prunus trees (apricot, cherry, peach, plum) may not harm goats

while leaves are fresh or died, they have higher cyanide content while in wilt.

## OTHER POISONOUS PLANTS

**Bracken or Brake ferns** contain an accumulative toxin which can cause severe anemia from hemorrhaging. It is also a carcinogen and can cause thiamine deficiency, leading to goat polio.

**Maple leaves**, when dried or wilted, can cause hemolytic anemia. Red maples are most toxic and tend to drop more leaves, which goats readily ingest.

**Mold**, though not a plant, can cause deadly listeriosis. Do not feed moldy hay or grass/landscape clippings that have been allowed to sit even a short time.

**Mushrooms**, especially toxic varieties, may be mixed with lawn clippings or prevalent in wooded areas.

**Oak**, including leaves, blossoms, and acorns, contain tannins. Red, black, and yellow oak are especially dangerous. Allowing fallen leaves to remain in livestock water can cause toxin accumulation. High tannin content can cause liver and kidney damage that can lead to death.

**Ponderosa Pine** can cause abortions in pregnant goats, though other pine trees, firs, and spruces are fine if introduced gradually.

**Rhubarb leaves** contain high quantities of oxalic acid, which can damage kidneys.

**Yew**, a coniferous tree common in landscaping, is deadly and can stop a heart in seconds. Be watchful for these at livestock exhibitions, as they can be used in displays and near barns.

*Sources: by Katherine Drov Dahl MH CR CA CEIT DipHr QTP and <http://poisonous-plants.ansci.cornell.edu/goatlist.html>*

**Enterotoxemia** can occur even with the healthiest foods, if fed to goats that are not used to them. This imbalance upsets the goat's rumen, which allows growth of bacteria *Clostridium perfringens* types C and D.



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