

# USPC

## An Illustrated Study Guide to Toxic Plants and Symptoms

To be used for H-B Certifications

National Testing Curriculum Committee  
United States Pony Clubs, Inc.  
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This Study Guide will help you learn what some of the toxic plants look like and how they can harm your horse. It shows, in one place, the plants found in two USPC manuals. Use this Study Guide, along with the Answer Key to Toxic Plants (a separate document), to increase your knowledge of this important topic. Specific information required for the Pony Club certification levels is provided.

**\*These plants will be used in H-B certifications. H-A may use these, as well as *Supplemental Toxic Plants* to help identify toxic plants found on farms/stables.**

### **What the Standards of Proficiency say:**

C-2 Standard: *The requirement is to name 3 toxic plants in their area and describe their appearance.*

Here are some ideas for descriptions: Is it a tree/bush/flower, how tall is it, what do the leaves and flowers look like, what are other unique features?

H-B Standard: *The requirement is to identify and discuss 3 randomly chosen or assigned examples/pictures of toxic plants from a bank of ten to twelve examples/pictures. (A bank of plant names will be provided prior to the test.) Identify the plant by its common name. Name 3 signs, specific to this plant, that you might see in a horse who has consumed or has come into contact with the plant.*

H-A Standard: *The requirement is to include in your Stable/Farm design and Management plan pictures, descriptions, and poisoning symptoms for at least 5 poisonous plants in the member's area.*

### **Study Guide Information**

The information provided is from the manuals along with clarifications and corrections. The information is presented in overall alphabetical order. There is a slides list with the name and the manual in which it is found. Use both USPC manuals (2nd Edition): C-1/C-2 Intermediate Manual and HB-A Advanced Horsemanship as well as this Study Guide, and the Answer Key.

As a C-2: Name and describe 3 plants. To identify a plant, it is helpful to know the plant's name and its type (trees, shrub, weed, vine, herb).

As an H-B: In identifying a plant, know its name and type (trees, shrub, weed, vine, herb). Of the numerous poisoning symptoms, you need only know 3, and know when there is a need to call the vet. If ingesting or touching a plant result in death, this is vitally important information. Additional information that you could present is its toxicity level and the area found.

For example: plant X, a shrub, causes muzzle blisters, hair loss, and drooling. Additional information you could present - the plant is found in the Northeast; additional symptoms are brown urine and loose stools.

As an H-A, know what the H-B knows, but specific to your area as part of your pasture management. If there are toxic plants that are not listed in the manual and those are of most concern for you, then you may present those plants. Additional information could be scientific name, additional symptoms, toxicity level, and methods to eradicate.

## Slide Presentation

- The listed toxic plants are found in the Intermediate and Advanced USPC Manuals (2nd ed.)
- Slide number/plant name/manual location

1. Black Nightshade/HorseNettle - Intermediate
2. Black Walnut - Intermediate
3. Bracken Fern - Intermediate
4. Castor Bean - Advanced
5. Chokecherry or Wild Black Cherry - Intermediate
6. Foxglove - Advanced
7. Frosted Grass/Clover or Alfalfa/Lawn Clippings - Advanced
8. Hemlock, Poison - Intermediate
9. Hemlock, Water - Intermediate
10. Horsetail - Intermediate
11. Johnson Grass - Intermediate
12. Laurel/Mountain Laurel (The Manual incorrectly lists Mountain Laurel and Rhododendron as the same) - Intermediate
13. Larkspur - Advanced
14. Locoweed – Crazyweed - Advanced – **see page 451 in Advanced Manual**
15. Lupine - Advanced
16. Ornamental Yew - Intermediate
17. Privet - Advanced
18. Ragwort (Tansy, Groundsel, Senecio) - Intermediate
19. Red Maple - Intermediate
20. Rhododendron (The Manual incorrectly lists Rhododendron and Mountain Laurel as the same) - Intermediate
21. Vetch (Hairy Crown) - Intermediate
22. Yellow StarThistle (The Manual incorrectly lists Yellow Star Thistle and Russian Knapweed as the same) - Intermediate
23. Russian Knapweed (The Manual incorrectly lists Russian Knapweed and Yellow Star Thistle as the same) - Intermediate
24. Oleander

## Photograph Credits

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Example:

#0 Apple



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H-B	Type tree	Where Found Lower 48 states	Symptoms anorexia, depression, difficult breathing
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H-A	Scientific Name <i>Malus domestica</i>	Additional Symptoms weakness, staggering, and death. Colic from eating too many apples  Name, symptoms, toxicity from <i>Horse Owner's Guide.</i>	Toxicity Level Symptoms of cyanide poisoning include bright red mucous membranes	Method(s) to Eradicate Cut down tree; <b>Dip a paintbrush into full-strength glyphosate herbicide. Paint the freshly cut stump of the tree with the herbicide.</b> Do not overuse the chemical or it may spread to other vegetation through ground water and the tree's root system. Cover just the cut portion of the tree trunk. (homeguides.sfgate.com)
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#1 Name \_\_\_\_\_



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Both Black Nightshade and Horse Nettle have green berries when young.

Mature Black Nightshade berries are black.



Google Images

Mature Horsenettle berries are yellow.



H-B	Type	Where found	Symptoms
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H-A	Scientific Name	Additional Symptoms	Toxicity Level	Method(s) to Eradicate
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#2 Name \_\_\_\_\_



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H-B	Type	Where Found	Symptoms
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H-A	Scientific Name	Additional Symptoms	Toxicity Level	Method(s) to Eradicate
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#3 Name \_\_\_\_\_



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H-B	Type	Where Found	Symptoms
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H-A	Scientific Name	Additional Symptoms	Toxicity Level	Method(s) to Eradicate
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#4 Name \_\_\_\_\_



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H-B	Type	Where Found	Symptoms
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H-A	Scientific Name	Additional Symptoms	Toxicity Level	Method(s) to Eradicate
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#5 Name \_\_\_\_\_



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H-B	Type	Where Found	Symptoms
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H-A	Scientific Name	Additional Symptoms	Toxicity Level	Method(s) to Eradicate
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#6 Name \_\_\_\_\_



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H-B	Type	Where Found	Symptoms
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H-A	Scientific Name	Additional Symptoms	Toxicity Level	Method(s) to Eradicate
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#7 Name \_\_\_\_\_



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H-B	Type	Where Found	Symptoms
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H-A	Scientific Name	Additional Symptoms	Toxicity Level	Method(s) to Eradicate
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# 8 Name \_\_\_\_\_



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H-B	Type	Where Found	Symptoms
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H-A	Scientific Name	Additional Symptoms	Toxicity Level	Method(s) to Eradicate
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# 9 Name \_\_\_\_\_



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H-B	Type	Where Found	Symptoms
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H-A	Scientific Name	Additional Symptoms	Toxicity Level	Method(s) to Eradicate
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#10 Name \_\_\_\_\_



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H-B	Type	Where Found	Symptoms
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H-A	Scientific Name	Additional Symptoms	Toxicity Level	Method(s) to Eradicate
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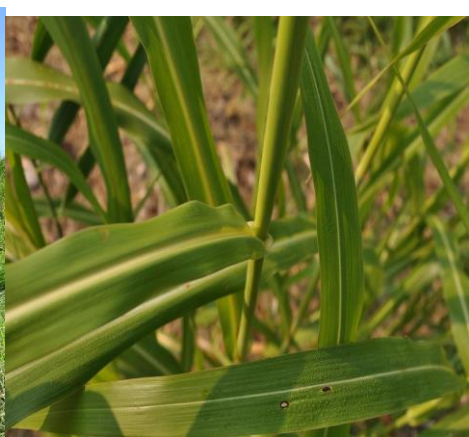
#11 Name \_\_\_\_\_



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H-B	Type	Where Found	Symptoms
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H-A	Scientific Name	Additional Symptoms	Toxicity Level	Method(s) to Eradicate
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#12 Name \_\_\_\_\_



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H-B	Type	Where Found	Symptoms
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H-A	Scientific Name	Additional Symptoms	Toxicity Level	Method(s) to Eradicate
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#13 Name \_\_\_\_\_



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H-B	Type	Where Found	Symptoms
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H-A	Scientific Name	Additional Symptoms	Toxicity Level	Method(s) to Eradicate
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#14 Name \_\_\_\_\_



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H-B	Type	Where Found	Symptoms
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H-A	Scientific Name	Additional Symptoms	Toxicity Level	Method(s) to Eradicate
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#15 Name \_\_\_\_\_



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H-B	Type	Where Found	Symptoms
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H-A	Scientific Name	Additional Symptoms	Toxicity Level	Method(s) to Eradicate
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#16 \_\_\_\_\_



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H-B	Type	Where Found	Symptoms
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H-A	Scientific Name	Additional Symptoms	Toxicity Level	Method(s) to Eradicate
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#17 Name \_\_\_\_\_



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H-B	Type	Where Found	Symptoms
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H-A	Scientific Name	Additional Symptoms	Toxicity Level	Method(s) to Eradicate
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# 18 Name \_\_\_\_\_



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H-B	Type	Where Found	Symptoms
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H-A	Scientific Name	Additional Symptoms	Toxicity Level	Method(s) to Eradicate
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#19 Name \_\_\_\_\_



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H-B	Type	Where Found	Symptoms
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H-A	Scientific Name	Additional Symptoms	Toxicity Level	Method(s) to Eradicate
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#20 Name \_\_\_\_\_



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H-B	Type	Where Found	Symptoms
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H-A	Scientific Name	Additional Symptoms	Toxicity Level	Method(s) to Eradicate
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#21 Name \_\_\_\_\_



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H-B	Type	Where Found	Symptoms
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H-A	Scientific Name	Additional Symptoms	Toxicity Level	Method(s) to Eradicate
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#22 Name \_\_\_\_\_



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H-B	Type	Where Found	Symptoms
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H-A	Scientific Name	Additional Symptoms	Toxicity Level	Method(s) to Eradicate
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#23 \_\_\_\_\_



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H-B	Type	Where Found	Symptoms
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H-A	Scientific Name	Additional Symptoms	Toxicity Level	Method(s) to Eradicate
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H-B	Type	Where Found	Symptoms
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H-A	Scientific Name	Additional Symptoms	Toxicity Level	Method(s) to Eradicate
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Write notes that will help you remember the toxic plants, given your certification.