

PLANTS POISONOUS OR HARMFUL TO HORSES EDUCATIONAL POSTER. Krishona Martinson, Mike Murphy, and Lynn Hovda, Assistant Extension Professor and Professor, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108 and Minnesota Racing Commission Veterinarian, Canterbury Park, Shakopee, MN 55379.

The horse industry has grown rapidly in Minnesota in the last five years, and is now estimated to be a \$1 billion industry. The 2002 USDA Census of Agriculture indicated there were 14,289 horse and pony farms in Minnesota; an 80 percent increase from the 1997 census. The University of Minnesota conducted a state-wide survey of 1,000 Minnesota horse owners during the spring of 2004, and poisonous plants were one of the top ten topics of interest to MN horse owners. Recent hoary alyssum outbreaks in purchased hay, and concerns over the use of black walnut shavings at Canterbury Park have also raised concerns with MN race horse owners, and owners of MN Thoroughbred farms have raised concerns about the toxicity of Maple, Oak, or Cherry trees around broodmares, foals or yearlings. Both the U of M Extension Service and College of Veterinary Medicine receive numerous requests annually for information regarding the effect of poisonous plants on horses. Because no comprehensive information source on plants poisonous or harmful to Midwest horses existed, the MN Racing Commission funded the development of a poster. The objective of the poster is to educate horse owners on poisonous and harmful plants that effect horses in the Upper Midwest and to provide clear, color photos to aid in plant identification. Plants identified on the poster include: black walnut, brackenfern, buttercup, clover, chokecherry, common cocklebur, corn cockle, fescue, foxglove, foxtail, hoary alyssum, field horsetail, maple, mustard, oak, poison hemlock, sweetclover, waterhemlock, white snakeroot, and yew.