

Summer grazing

Good grass is the essential and best food for your horse if managed well

Don't forget to get good advice re worming your horses successfully and making sure the pasture this summer is as good as you can make it.

Ragwort poisoning is so avoidable nowadays.

As soon as you see any sign of this yellow flowering plant, please remove it with its root intact and burn it. Never leave pulled-up plants in the field or near it and if your neighbour has lots growing near your horses field, it will go to seed and therefore depending on which way the wind blows could effect your horses grazing.



It is widely accepted that the plant loses its unpleasant taste when it dies but it is still just as dangerous. This means that ragwort found in hay or haylage, or leaves that have fallen off a plant in the field and died, can very easily be eaten unknowingly and will be just as harmful as a living plant.

1. Ragwort seedlings start to appear in **autumn**. They are about 10-15mm high.
2. Ragwort rosettes can be found from **early spring** onwards.
3. Mature plants flower from **May to October** and can reach up to two metres in height.

After flowering, most of the plants die and the seeds germinate in the area where the mature plant had been. One plant can produce many thousands of seeds which are covered with a downy substance so they can be easily dispersed by the prevailing wind. They can also be spread by water or by you and your animals.



Regular exposure to ingesting Ragwort causes liver failure and this is a slow painful death for animals and is something we can all avoid by good management of our land etc,

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