

COMPILED FILE ON TOXIC PLANTS

This is a guideline only for toxic plants in New Zealand. In **Bold** you will find the photo and name on the Paddock Card. In this list all plants are in alphabetical order under their common name. Some have more than one name. The toxicity is graded for alpacas only, relating to their eating habits (they are unlikely to dig up and or eat roots). Low toxicity and risk has 1+, extremely high toxicity and risk has 5+. The risk factor is measured by the likelihood of being ingested.

SOME TIPS ON KEEPING YOUR ALPACAS SAFE FROM ORGANIC TOXINS

Many garden plants and ornamental trees are toxic to livestock. Toxic weeds can hide in your lawn as well. To be on the safe side, NEVER feed alpacas cuttings of trees, plants, garden weeds or lawn clippings. Except for lawn clippings, don't even leave them on a compost heap, leaves can blow away and still cause fatal damage. Take to the tip or put in plastic rubbish bags. Cutflowers from a vase should go into the rubbish as well.

Before buying plants for your garden, check if they are found on this list. Most lilies, irises and plants with berries are toxic for alpacas. Although not digging up roots, they do nibble on things if you would lead them through your garden.

NEVER plant Rhododendron/Azalea, Oleander, Box or Golden Rain (Laburnum) on your property. If you buy a property that already has these shrubs or trees and you also have alpacas, take either the plants out or the alpacas. They are incompatible. Only ONE leaf, green or wilted, of Rhododendron is already fatal. Alpacas have it in their mouth before you can act and you will never get it out. Leaves are blown away in the paddock no matter how careful you are.

Get rid of weeds and ornamentals with berries. Most of them are toxic to livestock, inclusive alpacas. Refrain from buying such ornamental shrubs. Better be safe than sorry.

The original lists used to compile this file are also included to search by the plant's Family name.

Check with your farm centre which sprays are best used for eliminating certain weeds. Remember that some weeds stay toxic even when dead, you have to physically remove the plant. Sprays don't have to be chemicals, there are "green" sprays on the market as well. Alternatively plant or seed other plants/grasses that will prevent the growth of unwanted weeds.

Acknowledgements:

1. **"The Poisonous Plants in New Zealand"** by H.E. Connor -GP Publications Ltd.
2. Extract from **"Is It Poisonous?"** by Dr Helen Dauncey and Robyn Lawson, of NZ Poisons Information Centre, 1994
3. **"A Guide to the identification of NZ Common Weeds in Colour"**, compiled by EA Upritchard for the NZ Weed and Pest Control Societe Inc., some photos used
4. Further comments from: **Southern Alpacas, Aurora Alpacas and Federated Llamas**
Photos were taken by **E. Atkinson, J. Klomp**. Other photographic material was used from the **Massey University website on NZ Weeds; JT Salmon, Native Trees of NZ; NZ Agrichemical Manual; The Tree & Shrub Expert** by DG Hessaydon.
Production of paddock card and compiling of list by J.Klomp

Disclaimer: The Alpaca Association NZ Inc will not be responsible for any incorrect information by the authors as mentioned above. Not ALL toxic plants are listed, further reading is advised and can be found in the above references.

Toxicity & Risk	Plant name	Poisonous parts Comments	Identifying description
++	Albizia (brush wattle)	Ingestion of seeds can cause kidney failure	Family: Leguminosae
++	Angel's trumpets	All, especially flowers and seeds	small tree, trumpet flowers
+	Apple tree	Leaves and seed considered toxic in large amounts.	Family: Rosaceae
++	Apple of Sodom	All, especially berries Family: Solanaceae	mottled green & white berry. weed - shrub with prickles
+	Arum lilies Kaffir lily (clivias)	All, burning feel in mouth, normally avoided by stock	Family: Araceae
++	Asparagus fern	red berries poisonous	garden plant, fern-like
++++	Atropa belladonnas (Aka Deadly Nightshade)	All, highly poisonous, green and dried	like black currant berries Family: Solanaceae
+	Autumn Crocus	All	Family: Liliaceae
++	Avocado	Leaves, depending on season (Seeds may kill mice)	
+++++	Azalea Rhododendron	All, lethal	garden shrubs to tree height Family: Ericaceae
++	Bittersweet	All, especially berries	Family: Solanaceae
++	Black Nightshade	Unripe berries	Family: Solanaceae
+	Blue Lupins	Known to be toxic when infected with fungus phomopsis leptostromiformis	Family: Leguminosae
++	Boxthorn	Scarlet berries thought to be toxic Family: Solanaceae	hedge plant with prickles
+++	Bracken	Prolonged feeding will cause fatalities in stock. New growth is more toxic	Fern family, Pteridaceae
+	Brassicac (cabbage, cauliflower etc)	Large quantities poisonous to stock	Family: Cruciferae
++	Buttercups	In large quantities when fresh (OK dried in hay) burning feel in mouth. Varieties have different levels of toxin. Some species known to kill stock if sufficient ingested.	Family: Ranunculaceae
+++++	Buxus (Box)	Leaves. Known to kill stock. FATAL	Family: Buxaceae Hedge
++	Cape lilacs	berries	
+++	Cape tulip	Both leaves and corms are highly toxic, green and dried	Spring flowering bulb Family: Iridaceae
++	Castor oil Plant	Seed mainly, but also leaves Family: Euphorbiaceae	shiny seed capsule with 3 seeds 4.5m, large leaves, greenish-white to rust flowers
++	Centella	All, family: Umbelliferae	Low shrub
+++	Cestrum nocturnum (Queen of the night)	All, green and dried	Family: Solanaceae
++	Cherry Laurel	Leaves. Not normally palatable to stock.	Family: Rosaceae
++++	Climbing Lily	All, extremely toxic	Family: Liliaceae
++	Daffodils	All. Toxic when stem and bulb of 1 plant worth eaten. Seldom eaten by stock.	Family Amaryllidaceae

++	Daphnes	All parts contain toxin Family: Thymelaeaceae	sweet-smelling garden bush
++	Datura (Thorn Apple)	All parts, especially seeds	Family: Solanaceae
++++	Deadly Nightshade (Atropa Belladonnas)	All parts, highly poisonous, including dried	Family: Solanaceae
+++	Delphinium	All, green or dried	Family: Ranunculaceae
+	Fathen	Stem and roots accumulate nitrates. Has killed cows in NZ.	Family: Chenopodiaceae
+++	Field Horsetail	Thought to be toxic to horses and cattle. Toxicity not reduced when dried	Family: Equisetaceae
+++	Foxglove (Digitalis)	Poisonous to stock in quantity, dried more toxic. Affects heart Family: Scrophulariaceae	Large furry leaves- tall flower spike with purple bell flowers
+	Groundsel	All parts if sufficient ingested	Family: Compositae
+++	Hellebore	All, green or dried	Family: Ranunculaceae
+++	Hemlock	All, especially seeds, highly toxic even when dead/dried	weed to 2m, parsley to fern-like leaves Family: Umbelliferae
++	Horsebane	Leaves considered toxic	Family: Umbelliferae
+	Horse chestnut	Seeds (conkers) and leaves Family: Hippocastanaeae	English tree, deciduous
+	Inkweeds	red-black berries, leaves, roots. Unpalatable to alpacas Family: Phytolaccaceae	woody plant to 2m high with flower spike
++++	Iris	Leaves and corm highly toxic, both green and dries. Family: Iridaceae	Many are poisonous especially Stinking Iris with orange seeds
++	Ivy <i>Poison Ivy</i>	All parts and all species, but mainly berries are eaten as leaves are bitter. Fatal when eaten in large quantities. <i>Can cause dermatitis in humans</i>	Family: Araliaceae evergreen climbing plant with shiny leaves Family: Anacardiaceae
++	Jerusalem Cherry	All, especially berries Family: Solanaceae	shiny orange berries, small shrub, star-like flowers, pointed leaves
++	Karaka tree	Raw kernel of orange berries Family: Corynocarpaceae	NZ native, small green flowers, dark green leaves
++	Kowhais	All, especially yellow seeds in long pods Family: Leguminosae	NZ native, deciduous, drooping yellow flowers
++++	Laburnum (bean tree) (Golden Rain)	All, highly toxic, especially bark, seeds and unripened pods Family: Leguminosae	8 seeds, kidney shaped, in green pod, has yellow pea-type flowers
++	Lantana	Some species, green berries	Family: Verbenaceae
++	<i>Lillies</i>	<i>A few are poisonous – causes stinging in mouth</i>	Family: Liliaceae
++	Lily of the Valley	All, especially seeds Family: Liliaceae	Bulb- sweet-smelling white bell flowers
++	Lily of the Valley Tree	All	Family: Ericaceae
?	Lobelias	All	
+	Macrocarpa	Can cause abortion in stock, known to cause death in calves when large intake. OK for male stock	Family: Cupressaceae
+	Mangels	Roots, when raw and eaten in excess	Family: Chenopodiaceae
?	Milkwood	Fruit, leaves, milky sap	weed to 40cm, greenish-yellow flowers

+	Milkweed	All, generally unpalatable to stock, high quantities considered toxic	Family: Euphorbiaceae
	MUSHROOMS	Many species both edible and inedible. Watch for Fly Agaric and Death Cap	Family: Basidiomycetes
++	Ngaio	All green parts and fruit Family: Myoporaceae	NZ native with pale spots in leaves
+	Oak	Acorns can be toxic to sheep, cattle and pigs	
+++++	Oleander	All, can be fatal. Green or dried. Smoke is also toxic.	garden shrub
+	Peach	Leaves and kernel considered toxic in large amounts	Family: Rosaceae
+	Pigeonwood	All parts suspected of being toxic	Family: Monimiaceae
+	Plum tree	Leaves and kernel considered toxic in large amounts	Family: Rosaceae
+	Poinsettias	milky sap blisters skin, stings mouth	garden plant
+	Ponderosa Pines	May cause abortion in stock	Family: Pinaceae
++	Poppy	All parts. Iceland poppy and Opium poppy	Family: Papaveraceae
++	Porororo	Leaves, green fruit. Family: Solanaceae	NZ native, 2m, purple flowers. Green berries ripen to orange-yellow
+	Potatoes	all green parts	Family: Solanaceae
+	Privet	Leaves and berries are toxic if eaten in high quantities.	Family: Oleaceae
+	Pukatea	Bark known to be toxic to sheep Family: Monimiaceae	NZ native, up to 36m tree, serrated leaves.
++	Ragwort	All. Causes intestinal problems with prolonged feeding and high quantities.	Family: Compositae
+++++	Rhododendron Azalea	All, fatal. Even prunings, clippings fatal to stock (honey poisonous to humans)	Garden shrub to tree height.
++	Rockfern	Prolonged feeding thought to cause multiple haemorrhaging in stock.	Family: Adiantaceae
+	Rhubarb	Leaves. Leaf has oxalic acid – do not eat, raw or cooked	Family: Polygonaceae
++	Rhus	All. Plant toxin causing dermatitis in half of humans, inclusive smoke when burnt	
+	Robinia	Bark known to be toxic to horses and man	Family: Leguminosae
++	Sheep Sorrell	Continual usage builds up oxalate crystals in sheep	Family: Polygonaceae
++	Spindle Tree	All parts toxic, especially berries	Family: Celastraceae
+	St. John's Wort	All, oversensitivity to light	Family: Hypericaceae
+	Star of Bethlehem	Bulbs only thought to be toxic	Family: Liliaceae
++	Storksbill	Seed head can work through fleece and pierce skin. High intake known to cause staggers in sheep and cattle.	Family: Garaniaceae
?	Strathmore weed	Known to be toxic to horses and cattle	Family: Thymelaeaceae
++	Sweet peas	Pods poisonous to stock	Family: Leguminosae
+	Stinging nettle	Harmful if touched, especially native tree nettle	

++	Thorn Apple (Datura)	All parts, especially seeds	Family: Solanaceae
+	Tree Nettle (Onga onga)	Stinging hairs. Unlike to be found in pastures. Known to kill horses and dogs.	NZ native to 2.5m Family: Urticaceae
	Tung Tree	All	Family Euphorbiaceae
+++	Tutu (Toot)	All, especially black grape-like berries (& honey)	Family: Coriariaceae NZ native – climber and shrub
+	Waoriki	All	Found in waterways Family: Ranunculaceae
+	Wattle	Some species suspected of poisoning stock	Family: Leguminosae
+	Wax tree	harmful if touched	
?	White cedars (aka Chinaberry, Indian bead, Persian lilac)	All	small deciduous tree
+++++	Yew (Taxus)	All. Especially berry with poisonous seed, even dried and wilted leaves. DEADLY Readily eaten by stock	Many different shapes, mostly in parks and gardens Family: Taxaceae