

STOP THE SPREAD



Fatal liver disease in horses has occurred following two weeks of feeding hay with as little as 6% Houndstongue

UNWANTED PLANTS

Origin

A biennial native to Eurasia, it was accidentally introduced through contaminated crop seed in the 1900's.

Status

Found throughout the north western United States, B.C, Alberta and recently 2 patches in the Riding Mountain area in Manitoba have been found.

Impacts

Houndstongue contains poisonous alkaloids. The plant is generally avoided by grazers, but if found in hay it can be consumed and can cause fatal liver disease. Seeds have burrs that stick to livestock causing them to decrease in market value. Burrs can also be a problem to hikers, hunters and their pets.

Where to Look

A week competitor, Houndstongue requires disturbance to become established. Sites include: roadsides, trails, pastures where there is overgrazing and in woodlands following soil disturbance.

Control:

Mowing before flowering will prevent seed production. Hand pulling is effective in softer soils. If roots break it will result in re-sprouting, sever the root below ground to prevent this. Dispose of the plant material in garbage bags or burn them. Biocontrols have been introduced and one of them, *Mogulones cruciger*, a root mining weevil, has been successful at controlling this plant.



LOOK FOR:

grows to be 1.5 m tall. May have multiple stems.

Leaves are oblong and very hairy—resembles a hounds' tongue.

Flowers in mid June– August; red to burgundy in colour, produces 3-4 seeds.

Seeds are called nutlets and are covered in barbs.

Prevent the Spread in Manitoba

Seeds are heavily barbed and cling readily to clothing and hair/fur. Wherever the seed carrier goes, so does the weed, therefore preventing flowering and removing seed is the best way to prevent the spread.

Report a Sighting:

Invasive Species Council of Manitoba

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Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System Manitoba & Saskatchewan

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