

# Buttercups, *Ranunculus* spp.



**Identification:** Various: generally erect stems, deeply lobed leaves and 5-petaled yellow flowers.

**Habitat:** Pastures, especially wet areas

**Animals Affected:** sheep, cattle

**Toxin Family:** Protoanemonin from Ranunculin glycoside, released when plant is chewed.

**Other:** Protoanemonin irritates the mouth, causes excessive salivation and intestinal irritation which can result in diarrhea. Can be fatal if eaten in excessive quantities. Causes sharp drop in milk production, and blistered lips. Creeping buttercup is toxic to cattle. Bur Buttercup is highly toxic to sheep. Toxin lost in dried forage. Plants not highly palatable: generally avoided.