

# Ragworts/Groundsel, *Senecio* spp.



**Identification:** Various, species identification is often tricky. The genus can be identified by the presence of a single layer of touching (not overlapping) green bracts surrounding the flower. Generally lanceolate to ovate alternate leaves, often deeply pinnately divided. Composite flower heads in flattened terminal clusters with showy yellow ray flowers. Seeds with tuft of white hairs.

**Habitat:** Pastures, clearcuts, disturbed roadsides.

**Animals Affected:** All Livestock.

**Toxin Family:** Pyrrolizidine alkaloids – amounts varying with species and stage of growth, young plants being most toxic.

**Other:** Causes acute liver necrosis and quick death or chronic poisoning by ingesting small amounts over longer period of time (generally within 3 weeks) causing chronic liver disease. Wobbling, loss of appetite, lethargic, crusty eyes/nose, pig-like color, prevents liver cell reproduction. Not palatable unless other forage not available. Young leaves most toxic. Remains toxic in hay.



Copyright © 2007 The Regents of the University of California. All rights reserved.