

St. Johnswort, *Hypericum perforatum*



Identification: One- to three-foot perennial. Erect stems, rust colored at base. Opposite, oblong leaves covered with transparent dots. Bright yellow flowers in cymes, often with black dots on petal edges.

Habitat: Pastures, rangeland, open timber, prefers well-drained soil.

Animals Affected: Cattle, sheep and horses.

Toxin Family: Hypericin (a photoreactive pigment) from the glandular dots on leaves is absorbed after ingestion, causing photosensitivity (skin cell death). Generally primarily affects white-skinned animals, rarely death occurs.

Other: Causes blisters around the mouth, eyes, ears, nose and feet when exposed to light

Young plants palatable, mature plants not as much. Toxic at all growth stages. Remains toxic in hay.