

AXIOM
ALLERGY VET

"For Allergy Testing In Cat, Dog & Horse"

Allergen Information

Weeds



Your Veterinary Surgeon will tick which allergens your animal has tested positive to.



Nettle (*Urtica dioica*)

Nettles are abundant in northern Europe and much of Asia, usually in the countryside. It is less evident in countries or areas where it is restricted by lack of moist soil. In the UK nettles have a strong association with human habitation and buildings. Human and animal waste may be responsible for elevated levels of phosphate and nitrogen in the soil, providing an ideal environment for the growth of the plant. In nature the nettle is an important food for larval butterflies and moths. It is a dioecious, herbaceous perennial, growing to about 1- 2 m in the summer and dying back in winter. The leaves are strongly serrated at the margins and together with the stems are very hairy. The plant bears small greenish /brownish flowers in dense axillary inflorescences in the summer, and may have two flowering (pollinating) periods within the season. The tips of many stinging hairs (trichomes) come off when touched, transforming their hair into a needle that will inject several chemicals : acetylcholine; histamine; serotonin; and possibly formic acid.



English Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*)

English plantain is a perennial found in moist meadows, pastures and roadsides. It also invades lawns.

The plant was introduced from Europe and has spread rapidly. It has many long narrow leaves and multiple flower stalks. The

flower stalks have an ovoid flower head with tiny greenish white flowers. English plantain flowers from May to October. It is considered an annoying weed but it is a food plant for many animal species; the seed is eaten by many songbirds.





Mugwort

(*Artemisia vulgaris*)



Mugwort is a perennial plant, which abounds on hedge banks, ditches, bushy areas and alongside roads and fences. It is tall growing with downy grooved stems rising 3 feet or more in height. The leaves are smooth and dark green on the upper surface and covered with a dense, cottony down beneath; they are once or twice pinnately lobed, the segments being lance shaped and pointed. In addition there is a basal rosette of pinnate leaves that survive the winter. The flowers are in small oval heads being either reddish or pale yellow, from July to October. Sheep enjoy mugwort herbage and also the roots. It has been suggested that the name mugwort is not derived from 'mug' but mougte (moth or maggot) as the plant has been regarded as useful in keeping off attacks of moths.



Ragweed (*Ambrosia* sp)



Ragweed is also known as bitter weed or blood weed and is a genus of flowering plants from the Sunflower Family (Asteraceae). The generic name *Ambrosia* (perfumed nourishment of ancient Greek gods) is ironic, as the ragweed pollen produces severe and widespread allergies. The plant prefers dry, sunny grassy areas, sandy soils and will grow along river banks, roadsides and disturbed soils. Ragweeds are annuals, perennials sub shrubs and shrubs. The seeds are important winter food for many bird species; butterfly and moth larvae feed on the plant. Each plant is reputed to be able to produce 8 billion pollen grains per season and is wind pollinated. It is highly allergenic, generally considered to be the greatest pollen allergen and a prime cause of hayfever. Flowers are produced from early July to mid August or until cooler weather arrives. Plants usually produce more copious pollen in wet years, however when humidity rises above 70% the pollen tends to clump and is not so likely to become airborne. Ragweed is a plant of concern in the global warming issue because tests have shown that higher levels of carbon dioxide will greatly increase pollen production. On dry and windy days pollen will travel many miles.





Lambs Quarter (*Chenopodium album*)



Chenopodium is an erect, summer annual. The leaves are lanceolate, approximately 1 to 2 inches long and 1 inch wide. The leaves are covered with a white mealy substance especially on the underside and are arranged alternately on the stems; the leaf margins are toothed. The flowers are found in small green clusters and lack petals; they are inconspicuous grey, green dense clusters in the leaf axils and branch tips. The plant is spread by black seeds, which germinate in the late spring to early summer. Lambs quarter is usually found in low maintenance turf situations and will grow in both acidic and alkaline soils. It is sometimes referred to as goosefoot due to the shape of the leaves. Its pollen can contribute to hayfever like allergies.



Sheep Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*)



Sheep sorrel occurs both in permanent grassland and disturbed habitats such as arable land and burnt moorland, particularly on acid or peaty soils. It is a native perennial found to be injurious to horses and sheep but being little grazed, is rarely fatal. It flowers from May to September. The separate male and female flowers emerge from a tall upright stem, the female flowers being maroon in colour. Seed is set from July to October.

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