

Butterweed/

Cressleaf Groundsel

Latin Name: *Packera glabella*

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Cressleaf Groundsel is toxic to horses and cattle. It is currently growing (April) in pastures. It has been increasing in pastures over the last several years.



Photo by: Brent Sellers



Photo by: James LeFils

The rosette is observed in December or January. In April it is about 12 –18” tall as is noted in the yellow flowered photo above. It can grow to 3’ tall. Note the deeply divided leaf structure.

It is known to cause liver disease in cattle with symptoms including listlessness, decrease of appetite, and photosensitization in extreme cases. Horses tend to appear uncoordinated after ingesting the plants and often become entangled in fences and awkwardly bump into objects. Acute liver necrosis and death in 1 to 2 days in cattle occurred when fed 4 to 8% of the animal’s body weight in green plant over a few days. Cattle that ingested 0.15% of a species in the same genus as butterweed for a minimum of 20 days had 100 percent mortality. This equates to a 20-day cumulative dose of 2% of an animal’s body weight of dry plants (Knight and Walter 2001). Also, it appears that this species has been responsible for abortions in cattle, making control of this plant a necessity.

Control of butterweed is successful with 2,4-D during the rosette growth stage. We have observed excellent control of butterweed with GrazonNext HL or Milestone during any growth stage. It is common to see plants at all stages of growth in late February to late March. Since 2,4-D has limited residual activity, it is likely that more than one application may be necessary in some situations.

For further information, please visit: <http://rcrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/publications/ona-reports/2013/or1-13.html>