

Prussic Acid Poisoning

Drought & frost can cause prussic acid to build up in sorghum, sudangrass & sorghum/sudangrasses. Millets do not contain prussic acid. DO NOT graze or green chop sorghum, sudangrass, or sorghum/sudangrass until the plant is at least 18-20 inches tall. DO NOT graze or green chop for 10 days after a frost. Always test forage that you suspect may have a nitrate or prussic acid problem.

For more information:

<http://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/forages/publications/ay196.htm> (Purdue)

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2011/0912barnhart.htm> (IA State)

Nitrate Poisoning

Nitrate poisoning occurs when cattle or other ruminants consume forages with high nitrate concentrations. Nitrates can build up in all forage & weed species due to over fertilization with manure or nitrogen, drought or shady conditions that limit plant growth and over grazing. Nitrate concentrations are often highest in the lower portion of the stems. If excess amounts of fertilizer or manure were applied we recommend forage testing before feeding annual forage especially in dry or drought conditions.

For more information:

<http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/ansci/livestoc/v839.pdf> (NDSU)

<http://forages.oregonstate.edu/fi/topics/pasturesandgrazing/grazingsystemdesign/nitratepoisoning> (OR State)

http://pubstorage.sdstate.edu/AgBio_Publications/articles/ES420.pdf (SDSU)