

Sampling for Annual Rye Grass Toxicity (ARGT)

Clinical signs of ARGT

- Neurological signs exacerbated by stress/movement
- Horses may stop eating, have muscle tremors or convulse
- Uncoordinated movements
- Animals may fall over
- Convulsions are strong muscular movements in fallen stock
- Pregnant stock may abort

Testing for ARGT

Sample type	Sample requirements
Rumen fluid	50mL of rumen fluid in jar fresh
Faeces	50g of faeces in pot fresh
Hay	1kg of representative hay sample
Grain	1kg of representative grain sample
Pasture	Min 100g of randomly collect rye grass sample from paddock

Submission of samples

The faeces and rumen content should be kept chilled and submitted in separate labelled, sealed containers.

The hay/grain or pasture should be submitted in a clearly labelled, well sealed plastic bags with sample identification, submitters name and contact details.

All samples should be submitted to the administration DPIRD
3 Baron Hay Crt Kensington for DPIRD diagnostic laboratory services.

Sampling for Toxic Algae

Clinical signs of toxic algae poisoning

- Difficulty breathing
- Muscular weakness
- Paralysis
- Sudden death
- Rapid carcass deterioration

Water sampling procedure

Note: Some toxic algae can be zoonotic so take care and wear gloves

Toxic algal blooms tend to be on the surface of the water and can look like a paint or oil film

- Collect water from the surface in an area where the bloom is visible (if present) in watertight plastic or glass bottle
- 100mL is sufficient up to 500mL is suitable
- Allow some air at the top of the bottle
- Thoroughly wash the outside of the bottle

Submission of samples

- Label bottle with water source and submitter name and contact number
- Keep sample chilled at less than 4° C
- Do not freeze sample
- All samples should be submitted to the administration DPIRD
3 Baron Hay Crt Kensington for DPIRD diagnostic laboratory services