



## Plant Material Warning

Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) Stewards wish to remind trainers of the risk posed by some plant material growing on or in the vicinity of training facilities, which if ingested by a horse may result in a horse returning a positive swab to a prohibited substance.

HRV Stewards have in recent times identified concerns in regard to specific plant material, which if ingested by horses may result in a positive swab to the prohibited substance Aminorex.

It is strongly recommended that checks of stable surroundings for the presence of any suspicious plant material should be undertaken regularly and if located those plants removed and eradicated.

It is incumbent upon all trainers to ensure that horses in their care are kept in an environment free of substances which are prohibited, or which may cause a horse to be presented to race not free of a prohibited substance.

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list or depiction of all types of plants which may pose a risk of exposure to prohibited substances or which may produce a positive swab to a prohibited substance.

If a Trainer is in any doubt as to the possible ingestion of these plants by a horse in their care, then that Trainer should seek immediate advice from a registered Veterinarian and the HRV Stewards.

### **Aminorex**

Ingestion of plants from the Brassicaceae family, including *Barbarea vulgaris* (Yellow Rocket) has been identified as a potential source of Aminorex. A chemical found in these plants called Barbarin (or GlucoBarbarin) can be chemically converted into the prohibited substance Aminorex.

Depicted below are examples of plants of concern



Trainers are reminded that it is ultimately their responsibility to ensure horses are presented to race free of prohibited substances in accordance with the Australian Harness Racing Rules (AHRR).

AHRR 190 states (in part):

*A horse shall be presented for a race free of prohibited substances.*

*If a horse is presented for a race otherwise than in accordance with sub rule (1) the trainer of the horse is guilty of an offence.*

*If a person is left in charge of a horse and the horse is presented for a race otherwise in accordance with sub rule (1), the trainer of the horse and the person left in charge is each guilty of an offence.*

*An offence under sub rule (2) or sub rule (3) is committed regardless of the circumstances in which the prohibited substance came to be present in or on the horse.*