

# Bur Buttercup

Ranunculus testiculatus

**Common Names:** Curveseed buttercup, hornseed buttercup, testiculate buttercup, tubercled crowfoot

**Species Affected:** Cattle, Sheep, Equines

**Toxins:** Glycoside ranunculin which turns to protoanemonin after crushed or chewed.

**Description:**

It has linear-dissected leaves and grow a bur on the end of a leafless, somewhat hairy stem. Yellow flowers develop from the bur shaped fruit between March and June.

**Growing Location and Timing :**

Bur buttercup begins growth, flowers, and sets its seeds in the early spring when temperatures are around 45 to 50 degrees. It favors high moisture areas as well as cold temperatures. Bur buttercup can be found on roadsides, meadows, pastures, shrublands, driveways, and other disturbed areas.

**Affects on Livestock:**

Neurological affects can result in weakness, tremors, depression or excitement, respiratory issues, convulsions, paralysis and death.

**Signs and Symptoms:**

Symptoms occur as digestive tract infection, blistering and swelling of the face and mouth.

**Preventative Measures:**

Since bur buttercup toxicity occurs after ingestion of large quantities, make sure to supply supplemental feed especially in the early spring since this is when bur buttercup begins growth. Removing livestock from large infestations of bur buttercup will also lessen the chances of exposure.



