

# Black Nightshade

*Solanum nigrum*

**Common Names:** Blackberry nightshade, common nightshade, European black nightshade, garden nightshade, poisonberry

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

**Toxin:** Glycoalkaloids, Solanine

## **Description:**

Black nightshade grow between 6 inches and 3 feet tall, with white flowers and black berries. The stems are triangular shaped, leaves are a lush green and are shaped like an arrow-head.

## **Growing Location and Timing :**

Nightshade thrives in fields and pastures with high soil moisture content. Germination is moisture dependent, and will occur between June and September.

## **Affects on Livestock:**

Death does not always occur when livestock consume nightshade. Although death or recover could take anywhere between a couple hours to a couple days. Anorexia, constipation, ascites are usually caused by chronic poisoning.

## **Signs and Symptoms:**

Symptoms can range from difficulty breathing, nasal discharge and salivation, elevated body temperature, weakness, and skin may become yellowish.

## **Preventative Measures:**

Since nightshade is not very palatable to livestock it is mainly found growing in hay and silage crops. In order to prevent poisonings it is good practice to mix feed that may carry nightshade with feed that is certified weed free. With this being said it is recommended to monitor livestock and stop feeding contaminated feed if signs and symptoms appear.

