



BE ON THE LOOK OUT FOR:

**JUNE 2022****Plant Name: Rocky Mountain Iris (*Iris missouriensis*)****Counties Affected:** Southern Navajo and Apache Counties, Northern Greenlee County**Other Names:** Western Blue Flag Iris, Blue Flag, Missouri Flag**Affected Livestock:** Cattle (especially calves)

**Plant Description:** A wild Iris that grows up to 12 inches tall. Flower is blue to purple with a yellow stripe on the petals. The leaves look similar to grass until plant is full grown. It is usually found in high altitude ponderosa pine or spruce-fir forests, and in heavily grazed areas with seasonally moist meadows. The plant spreads by seed and rhizome. It can easily out-compete grasses certain years.

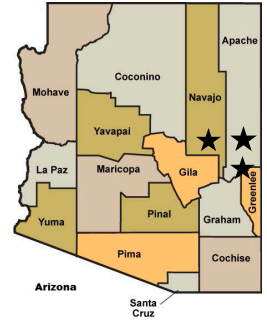
**About:** The primary toxin is irisin (iridin or irisine) found throughout the plant, which are resinoids and pentacyclin toxic terpenoids (from ACEP Now). The highest concentration of the toxin is found in the roots and rhizomes, with lower amounts found in the leaves. The plant is unpalatable and is usually not grazed by choice. Calves may be exposed to the plant as they are beginning to graze. The Iris may also be accidentally cut and bundled during haying operations.

**Symptoms:** Diarrhea, vomiting, labored breathing, decreased appetite, colic symptoms, increased salivation, sores on lips and mouth, and bleeding of stomach and small intestine.

**Diagnosis:** Contact veterinarian if any above symptoms occur, or if suspected ingestion has occurred.

**Treatment:** Remove affected and non-affected livestock from area and consult with your veterinarian. Provide supportive care as directed by veterinarian.

**Prevention:** Ensure palatable forage is available at all times. Avoid congregating cattle in areas that have heavy infestations of the Iris.

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BOLO format adapted from original work by Dr. Joslyn Beard