

FEEDING HERBS TO HORSES

'Listen to your horse'.



It is hardly practical to supply fresh herbs to your horse, it's difficult to get enough quantity and some fresh herbs have a horrible taste for horses.

If the drying process is carried out correctly, it can reduce the weight of the herb greatly because up to 90% of the fresh weight can be moisture.

It can be possible to retain most of the vitamin, mineral and medicinal qualities of 10 gram of fresh herbs in as little as 1 or 2 grams of dried herbs.

Clearly the advantage of using dried herbs are great, and therefore it's no wonder you'll find in every stable 1 or more tubs/bags with them.

Our assortment contains cut herbs and some are also available in fluid form, choose for your horse's preference.



It has been our experience thru the years that horses are extremely sensitive to what is good for them. Normally, unless forced by starvation, they will not voluntarily eat any fodder which will do them harm. Therefore be aware of this, and be guided by it.

If the horse is not enthusiastic about a particular herb, find an alternative one to feed.

Horses are like humans and have allergies and preferences; the same thing do not suit them all.

Another thing that we have found is that some horses will 'tell you' once they had enough of a particular course of treatment.

Many horses once 'cured' will start to refuse the very herb that brought about that 'cure'.

This is just another example of the horse exercising its instinctive knowledge of what it needs.

So, '**Listen to your horse**' .



FEEDING GUIDE

Feeding herbs is not an exact science and there are a number of factors that can affect the quantity that you might feed to a horse.

A. Firstly the quality of herbs can vary like any other agricultural product.

The climat and care taken during growing, harvesting and preperation are big factors in determining the quality of the herbs, in the same way as they can be with the process of preparing hay.

There are good and bad crops and the vitamin and mineral contents vary accordingly.

B. The physiological effect that herbs can have will vary in different animals, in the same way that other medicines and drugs can have varying effects in different horses.

Where a horse or pony may normally have say 20 grams of a particular herb, it is not uncommon for a similar one to require twice as much of that herb to show the same benefit.

Conversely, a herb can have such a dramatic effect in some cases, that only a half measure is sufficient to achieve the desired results.

C. In order to establish a suitable amount to feed, it is important to take account of the size and weight of the individual horse. (see table)





Over the years we have found that a daily feeding rate of up to 10 grams (0.35oz.) per 100 kilo (220 lbs.) bodyweight is normally about the correct amount. Normally a maximum of 50 grams (1.76oz.) is sufficient for a horse of 500 kilo (1100 lbs.). Where individual herbs are fed the amount required is usually less.

It can take some time for the actions of herbs to start to become apparent and where we have wanted to see improvement in a short time we have fed up to twice the "normal" amount for 7 to 10 days, then reduced the amount according to bodyweight and the other factors. Even at normal rates it is not unusual to see some improvement after feeding for as little as a week, although in other cases it can take \pm 3 weeks or so before the benefits become noticeable. However, even if it is not apparent, the herbs may still be making some progress. As a general rule you should look at the situation further if no change is detectable after feeding herbs for a month.

This feeding guide is for where a number of herbs are blended and fed together. These amounts represent a total daily ration of all herbs. It is indicated as an indication only, based on approximate size and bodyweights below.

Height mtrs / h.h.	Bodyweight kgs lbs	Suggested daily amount gms oz.
1.20 mtr. / 12 h.h.	230 - 290 kilo 507-639lbs	20 - 30 gram 0.7-1.06
1.30 mtr. / 13 h.h.	290 - 350 kilo 639-771	30 - 35 gram 1.06-1.23
1.40 mtr. / 14 h.h.	350 - 420 kilo 771-926	35 - 40 gram 1.23-1.41
1.50 mtr. / 15 h.h.	420 - 520 kilo 926-1146	40 - 50 gram 1.41-1.76
1.60 mtr. / 16 h.h.	500 - 600 kilo 1102-1323	50 gram 1.76
1.70 mtr. / 17 h.h.	600 - 725 kilo 1323-1598	60 gram 2.1

CAUTION:

Herbs can not replace veterinary care, if your horse is unwell you must call a veterinary surgeon to attend to the animal.

