

GRASS CLIPPINGS

It's usually not recommended that horses and ponies be fed grass clippings produced by a lawn mower.

- 1. The small particle size enhances the chance of rapid fermentation in the horse's digestive system. Consumption could potentially lead to colic or laminitis, especially if the horse or pony is not used to being out on pasture.**
- 2. If left in large clumps, as so often happens when the grass was long before being cut, and if heat/humidity conditions are just right, the clippings could rapidly ferment and mould, which can be potentially deadly if a horse or pony eats the clippings. Often clippings are bagged in plastic before being dumped in a large pile, a situation that encourages the growth of mould.**
- 3. Grass clippings may also contain weeds and pieces of common ornamental plants that are highly toxic, such as oleander or Japanese yew.**

Grass clippings produced by mowing a pasture that horses or ponies reside in should not be a tremendous concern if you keep your pasture mowed regularly so the clippings are sparse and well dispersed and not accumulating in large clumps. If you're merely cutting the grass they are accustomed to being on and leaving it "in situ" (in the original place) and they aren't prone to laminitis it should not be a problem.