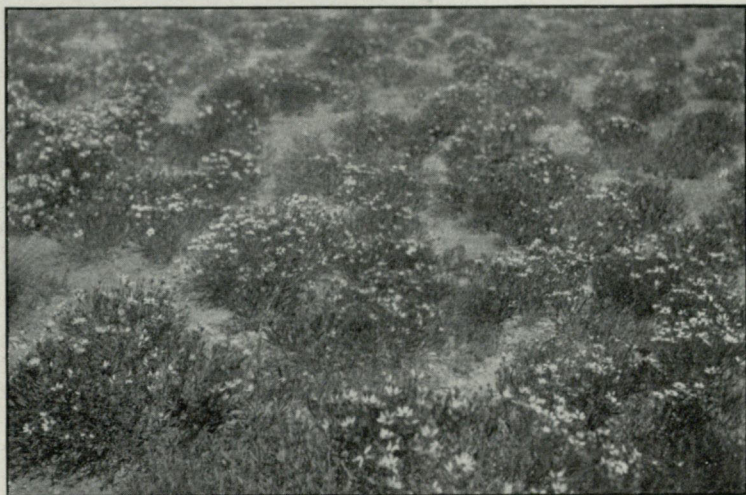


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UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING  
**Agricultural Experiment Station**

LARAMIE, WYOMING.



A PATCH OF WOODY ASTER.

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*The Identification of the Woody Aster*

BY THE BOTANIST AND THE DIRECTOR

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Bulletins will be sent free upon request. Address Director Experiment Station, Laramie, Wyoming.

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# Identification of the Woody Aster.

## INTRODUCTION.

During the past several years thousands of sheep have died in Wyoming through the eating of poisonous plants. The Woody Aster is probably the cause of greater losses than any other single poisonous agency. Many of these losses may be avoided by studying the plant and under what conditions of soil it may be expected to be found growing. Realizing that it is often difficult for the layman to distinguish plants in the field, even with the best printed descriptions at hand, this bulletin is distributed—containing not only a printed description, but photographs and a plant in bloom.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT.

This plant has a strong woody root more or less branched just at the surface of the ground. From these woody crowns tufts of short branches spring. These bear green, narrow leaves, one or two inches long, the whole tuft becoming at length several inches high, and finally producing, in June, a considerable number of large, white, daisy-like flowers with a yellow center. If the leaves be examined it will be found that they usually bear a considerable number of yellowish or brownish spots caused by a fungus.

## WHERE IT GROWS.

It need be looked for upon gumbo clays, usually on gentle slopes or sometimes on ridges. Often these conditions are met with in the neighborhood of temporary ponds or lakes where sheep are watered.

## WHEN IT APPEARS.

The time when the first foliage appears will vary with each year. Usually the plant leaves out before May 1. Again, the time of blossoming is a matter of weather conditions, but usually it begins flowering about the first of June. Beginning about the middle of June, the plant dries up and becomes a yellowish brown in color. Shortly after this sheep eat the aster freely with no apparent ill effects—in fact it appears to be very nutritious.

## POISONOUS PERIOD.

From the showing of the first leaves until the blossoming period is passed the Woody Aster is poisonous to sheep.

## SYMPTOMS AFTER POISONING.

Weakness of muscles of legs. Animal lies or falls down. Later, muscles of neck are weakened. Temperature rises, pulse becomes very rapid and weak. Breathing becomes labored with rattling in throat. Bloat is generally pronounced. Animal groans from pain. Increased secretion of urine. Froth, often bloody, comes from throat and nose. Mucous membranes vary from white to bluish. Stools are soft, with mucous, to very soft. Pupils are dilated. Cerebral symptoms present in most cases. Before death complete prostration and apparent unconsciousness. Death ensues in from a few hours to three or four days.

## TREATMENT.

No known remedy at present. Avoid the Aster patches.





A TWIG OF WOODY ASTER IN BLOOM.



**A STOOL OF WOODY ASTER—All from one woody root.**



**WOODY ASTER ROOTS.**