Equine Summer Eczema, Horse Summer Itch & Fly Control

Is This Your Horse?

- Tail hair loss
- No mane due to itching
- Intense itching along the mid-line
- Scab patches on skin

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What does it Look Like?

**Nicknames:** Equine Sweet Itch (England), Equine Summer Itch (USA), Equine Queensland Itch (Australia)

Summer Eczema Horse Summer Itch has hairless, reddened, itchy area on the base of the mail, midline of the belly, mane, and head. The itchy skin can cause further problems due to the horse rubbing the area on fences/stalls to the point of breaking off hair and increasing the size of the scabbed/damaged areas. Secondary bacteria can invade damaged skin. Horses can be so uncomfortable that riding is limited or eliminated.

What is the Cause?

Insect hypersensitivity reactions are documented as the most common allergic reaction of horses and Equine Summer Eczema/Horse Summer Itch (SE) falls into this category. Horse Summer Itch is recognized as the #1 cause of mane and tail rubbing in research and is the #1 hypersensitivity reaction in the horse.

The cause is a gnat called Culicoides with nicknames of “biting midge” and “no-see-ums”. They cause a painful bite, and after they bite, they suck blood from the area. They are called “no-see-ums” because they are only the size of a period at the end of a sentence. You feel a bite but you can’t tell what it is from. Their saliva has foreign proteins containing antigens which set off a reaction in the horse’s skin in six to twenty four horse after a bit. The reaction causes the redness and itchy condition. Only a few horses in a herd are usually affected because it is an allergic condition, and the conditions are not contagious. A horse with affected skin will not transmit it to another horse or person. There is a genetic component to Horse Summer Itch – offspring of affected horses are more prone to have Horse Summer Itch.

What is in Summer Eczema Oral Supplement?

1. Natural Herbs
2. Your choice of Original Molasses or Sugar-Free Apple flavoring

Proprietary herbal blend exclusive to Summer Eczema Oral Supplement containing: Marshmallow, Lemon Peel, Celery Salt, Blue-Green Algae, Ginger, Rose Hip, Kelp, Raspberry, Dandelion, Sage, Willow, and Nutmeg

The amount of each herb, the part of the plant used, and the blending process makes Equine Summer Eczema Oral Supplement unique. Hundreds of horses have shown great results in field studies.
How to Stop an Active Case

Goal: To heal the damaged skin and stop further episodes.

4 things you need to order:

1. **Horse Summer Itch/Summer Eczema (SE) Oral Supplement**: Start SE Oral Supplement twice a day in feed. This supplement has natural herbs to soothe the reaction of the Culicoides bite. Multiple horses have received thousands of doses from all over the United States with great results. SE Oral Supplement is USEF and FEI okay to show on. A reusable plastic cup accurately and easily measures the right amount (20 cc) of a very small volume of liquid to pour onto the feed. The herbs are mixed with Molasses or a Sugar-Free Apple flavoring which are great tasting to your horse. (Medication Dosage: 20 cc in AM, 20 cc in PM. One bottle lasts 24 days)

2. **Map Shampoo**: Use the Map Shampoo on the area to remove crusts and bacterial debris. Map Shampoo is all natural and gently aids in healing. Use it three days in a row and then two times a week until skin is healed. You will only need one bottle to treat a horse. After using just one bottle, you will go back to your normal shampoo and still bathe three days a week to remove urine attraction. *Required in active cases

3. **Quadrabiotic Enzyme Ointment**: After removing the crusts with Map Shampoo, dry the area and massage a small amount of this special ointment to soothe the red area, combating secondary bacterial infections, and stopping the itch. You will need only one jar to treat a horse. *Required in active cases

4. **RK Topical Horse Fly Spray**: Apply RK Topical Horse Fly Spray twice a day. Once at dusk when Culicoides come out and once in the morning to stop other insects from attacking damaged skin. This Horse Fly Spray is crucial to healing the skin. You need to stop the cause to allow the skin to heal.
Management to Avoid an Outbreak

Two things you need to order:

1. **Horse Summer Itch/Summer Eczema Oral Supplement:** Only need to give 20 cc once a day in feed. In states with constant warm weather (California, Florida…) need to use year round. In states with a cold winter, start April 1st and go until mid-November. (Medication dose is 20cc once a day and a bottle will last 48 days.)

2. **RK Topical Horse Fly Spray™:** Apply twice a day. Need 2 bottles a month per horse to apply 2 times a day for 30 days.

Management:

1. **Fans:** Blow Culicoides physically away from the horse.

2. **Daytime Turnout:** Culicoides gnats feed at night. Be in a stall with a fan at night, or reapply RK Topical Spray at dusk if outside continuously. Use RK Topical Spray in the mornings to avoid green heads, horse flies, and barn flies that damage skin. Culicoides then attack these areas at night.

3. **Remove Standing water areas on farm:** They live/breed in stagnant water so if it is removed, it will cut down on the population. They do not live in streams. Put blue stone around waterers to avoid lots of mud which can hold water in a horse shoe impression.

4. **Omega Oils added to feed:** A Canadian study shows it helps to decrease itchy skin.

   Two great alternatives in the feed once a day:

   - **Ground Flax Seed** – #1 Source of Omega 3’s in plants. Great 4:1 ratio of Omega 3 to Omega 6. Give four tablespoons a day.

   - **Whole Chia Seed** – #2 Source of Omega 3’s in plants. Great 3:1 ratio of Omega 3 to Omega 6. Give two tablespoons a day.

5. **Deworming for Skin:** Internal parasites rob your horse’s immune system. We recommend giving one tube of Equimax dewormer once a week for four weeks in a row. This can help your horse be at its best to protect the skin. Also, in case they have Equine Summer Eczema/Horse Sweet Itch and onchocerciasis together, this helps both. Blackflies can transmit an *Onchocerca volvulus* larvae onto the skin and they burrow under the skin creating itching.
6. **Give your horse a bath:** Give your horse a bath with your regular shampoo (even Dawn dish soap works) two to three times a week. Any soap can help in prevention. Why? Horse urine attracts flies over thirty times greater than other large animals. You can cut down on exposure by removing the attraction. Also hose your horse off after rides. Once dried off, apply RK Topical Horse Fly Spray™.

**What Doesn’t Work?**

- **Allergy shots** – A study out of Florida shows no success
- **Special Expensive Blankets** – You will not need them

*Be sure to go to [www.equinemed surg.com](http://www.equinemed surg.com) for additional information and helpful links.*

*Proper diet and exercise is essential for horse health. This product is a supplement to help maintain horse health. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent disease.*