

ALLERCEPT[®] Therapy Drops

Owner Workbook for Animals with Allergies



HESKA
AN ANTECH COMPANY

Dear Pet Owner:

Welcome to the ALLERCEPT Allergy Assessment and Treatment Program. Your doctor chose to use the ALLERCEPT program to test and treat your pet because they trust the results. Based on your pet's medical history, location and test results, a customized treatment has been created. This treatment, also known as immunotherapy drops (sublingual immunotherapy), is successful in approximately 60%–80% of patients and is one of the safest, long-term treatments available. Your doctor may also choose to add additional therapies to your pet's immunotherapy regime such as skin support supplements and antihistamines, for example.

Please use this workbook as a reference guide. You have also been provided a Calendar & Notes tool to document your pet's treatment schedule and track progress. We suggest you take pictures of your pet before and during treatment to help you with this documentation.

Please contact your veterinarian if you have any questions regarding your pet's treatment and to order treatment refills.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ALLERGIES

What are Allergies	1
The Path to Relief.....	2
Managing Allergies	3
Testing and Treatment	4

ALLERCEPT® IMMUNOTHERAPY

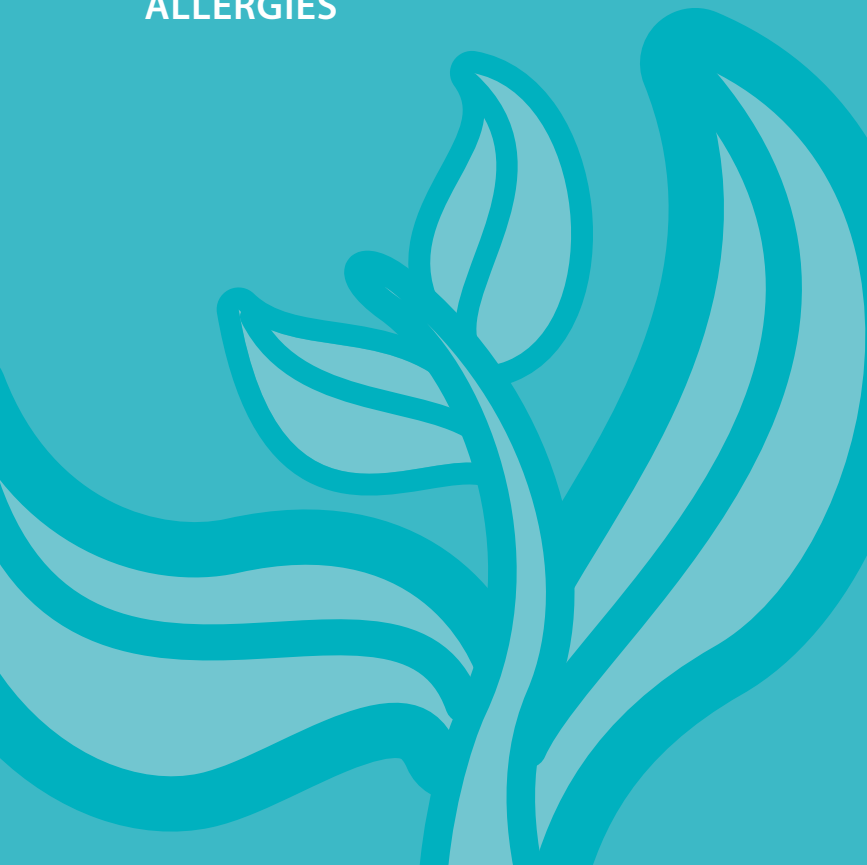
What to Expect	9
Starting Treatment	10
ALLERCEPT Allergy Program Administration Guidelines	10
Three Bottle Sequence	10
Priming the Dispenser	11
Dispensing the Drops	11
Twice-Daily Dosing	12
Possible Side Effects	12

ENVIRONMENT—MINIMIZING EXPOSURE

House Dust Mites	15
Storage Mites	16
Fleas	17
Pollen Allergens	18
Most Common Allergenic Trees, Weeds & Grasses	19
Trees	19
Weeds	20
Grasses	22

Common Fungi and Molds	25
Common Molds and Their Locations.....	25

ALLERGIES



Your pet has been diagnosed as suffering from allergies. You and your veterinarian have agreed to manage the allergic disease using a process called allergen-specific immunotherapy (ASIT). This workbook will provide you with an understanding of how allergic disease can develop. It will identify and discuss some of the specific allergens that your pet may be sensitive to, and instruct you in how to ensure the best possible outcome for treatment.

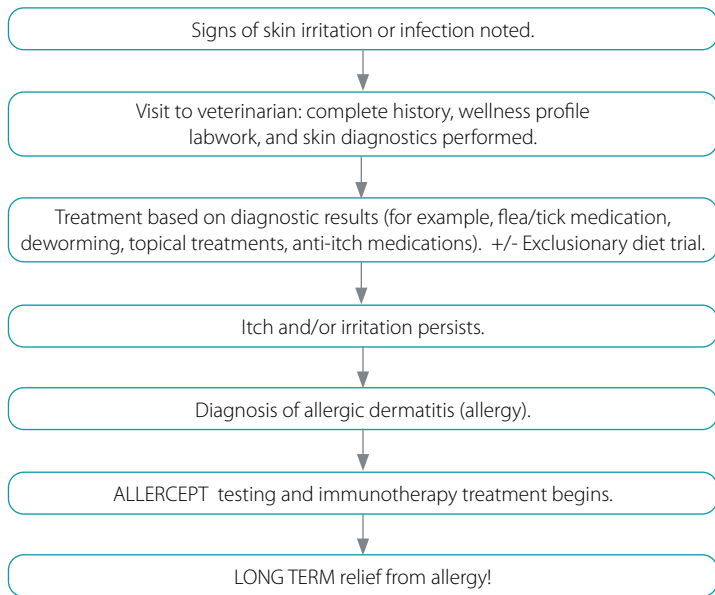
WHAT ARE ALLERGIES?

Allergies occur when your pet's immune system reacts abnormally to everyday substances such as pollens, animal dander(s), mold spores, fleas, mites and certain foods. These offending substances are known as allergens and your pet can be exposed by absorption, ingestion or direct contact. Months or years of continued exposure may cause your pet to develop clinical signs that suggest they are itchy and uncomfortable. Dogs and cats may lick their feet, scratch their face, ears or belly, or bite at the base of their tail. Horses may rub their face, rump, or tailhead, or possibly experience skin hives or respiratory heaves. With repeated exposure to the allergen(s), your pet may gradually experience prolonged periods of itchiness (pruritus) and changes in the texture and color of their skin and haircoat. Allergies should always be considered in pets with unexplained hair loss, recurrent ear infections, or when showing signs of excessive self grooming; however, there are many other conditions that can cause your pet to be itchy.

Before testing for allergies, your veterinarian will likely have ruled out a large number of conditions that can cause itchiness including parasites (fleas, lice, mites and intestinal parasites), skin infections (bacterial, yeast and fungal) and even some metabolic diseases (thyroid disease, Cushings disease, *etc.*). Although this

work-up may seem extensive, it is absolutely necessary before your pet is tested and treated for allergies. This workbook is designed to guide you through the process of how Heska's ALLERCEPT Allergy Assessment and Treatment Program identifies the allergens that are most likely triggering your pet's allergies, and how that information is used to customize treatment specifically for your pet.

The Path to Allergy Relief



MANAGING ALLERGIES

If you are reading this book, it is likely you have already tried a variety of allergy management strategies for your pet. Avoidance, environmental control and medications offer some degree of relief but none provide the complete, safe, long-term management your pet needs. Those patients with persistent allergies often require immunotherapy (allergy drops) to modify excessive response their immune system has to specific allergens. Treating the root cause of allergies with all-natural immunotherapy is key to limiting disease progression and minimize long-term medication usage for your pet.

Sublingual immunotherapy is a medical treatment where allergens (pollens, dust, molds, mites, *etc.*) to which your pet is allergic are administered sublingually (beneath the tongue) twice daily. The goal with immunotherapy is to change the immune system's response so that it becomes tolerant of those allergens, resulting in reduction of your pet's allergic signs as well as reducing or eliminating the need for steroids and other medications.

Immunotherapy is one of the safest, most effective long-term treatments for allergy. While other treatments simply mask allergic signs, immunotherapy is the only treatment that targets the root cause of allergies. It is, however, important to remember that immunotherapy is not a cure for allergies. Even in cases where pets are noted to enjoy complete resolution of clinical signs, immunotherapy should be continued for the life of the pet to reduce relapse. Allergy specialists at Heska are available to discuss your pet's medical condition with your veterinarian at any time before and during treatment.

TESTING AND TREATMENT

Accurate identification of specific environmental allergens to which your pet is reacting is a key first step in the path to effective immunotherapy. These allergens are identified by measuring blood levels of allergen-specific IgE antibodies. Heska's ALLERCEPT IgE Test uses a patented, sophisticated and specialized IgE receptor technology that measures only allergen-specific IgE, thus significantly decreasing the chance of false positives. Peer-reviewed scientific studies have shown that Heska's ALLERCEPT IgE Test correlated very well with skin testing (considered by many to be the historic standard). Using the ALLERCEPT IgE Test, your veterinarian can get accurate results for allergen-specific IgE levels with a single blood sample. In contrast, skin testing is typically performed by a veterinary dermatologist, requires your pet to be shaved, sedated or anesthetized, and entails the injection of a battery of allergens just beneath the outer layer of your pet's skin.

Heska's simple blood test with industry-leading accuracy is key to immunotherapy success. No other serum IgE test for pets uses the patented IgE receptor, and thus other tests may be prone to providing false positive or false negative results. Immunotherapy treatment sets based on these erroneous test results may therefore include unnecessary, or exclude necessary, allergens for your pet.

Pets that are suspected of having allergies may be required to discontinue some medications for a predetermined amount of time prior to IgE testing. Your veterinarian will determine this time based on your pet's medication history and clinical signs. When it is appropriate to test, a blood sample is taken from your pet and submitted to Heska's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories. Your veterinarian will receive easy-to-read results and immunotherapy recommendations within 2–3 business days of Heska receiving the sample.

Many factors are considered when formulating your pet's customized immunotherapy. An allergy expert from Heska will review your pet's history and interpret the ALLERCEPT IgE Test results, giving consideration to botanical region, distribution, the pollens of allergenic importance, and knowledge of allergen cross-reactivity. The best response is observed when immunotherapy contains a minimum number of relevant allergens in the appropriate amounts necessary to retrain the immune response, thus managing your pet's allergies at the root cause.

ALLERCEPT IMMUNOTHERAPY

ALLERCEPT IMMUNOTHERAPY



WHAT TO EXPECT

After your veterinarian has drawn a blood sample from your pet, submitted it to Heska's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories for allergen-specific IgE testing, and consulted with Heska's allergy experts on the recommended allergens to be used in your pet's customized immunotherapy treatment, a specialized mixture of pure allergen extracts is made just for your pet. This kit contains all the information you need to administer customized immunotherapy allergy drops to your pet at home.

Your pet's immunotherapy contains small quantities of allergens that are specially formulated into a liquid that is administered beneath the tongue. The drops are always given twice daily, preferably once in the morning and once in the evening. If your pet was treated with immunotherapy injections in the past and experienced any kind of reaction, Heska recommends having the first dose of the allergy drops administered at your veterinarian's hospital.

Most pets will show improvement in their clinical signs within the first 3–6 months of treatment with allergy drops. Continue treatment for at least 10 months before deciding whether it is the best way to manage your pet's allergy. Your veterinarian will help you make this decision. Fleas, food allergies, secondary skin infections, missed doses, or other factors can contribute to a lack of improvement, so it is important to have regular follow-up visits with your veterinarian, especially during the first year of treatment. By working with your veterinarian, you will give your pet the best chance for sustained, long-term, safe relief from the problems associated with allergic disease.

While every pet responds differently to any given medication, allergy drops (sublingual immunotherapy) have been shown to be successful in 60%–80% of patients. For pets that do not improve significantly with allergy drops, and all other underlying problems have been addressed, it may be possible to change the formulation of the allergy drops. In rare cases, it may be beneficial to retest your pet if it is suspected that new allergies have developed. Also keep in mind, a subset of pets that do not respond adequately to immunotherapy drops may respond positively to immunotherapy injections instead.

STARTING TREATMENT

ALLERCEPT Therapy Drops Program Administration Guidelines

ALLERCEPT Therapy Drops are indicated as an aid in alleviating symptoms associated with allergic disease in the dog, cat and horse. Other factors in the management of the allergic animal include environmental control and elimination of the offending allergens when possible.

Three Bottle Sequence

The drops come in 3 concentrations (A, B and C). Your first order will contain two bottles, one each labeled “A” and “B”. Begin treatment with bottle “A”. Once you have completed this bottle, begin bottle “B”. Your second order as well as subsequent refills will contain two bottles labeled “C”. After you have finished bottle “B”, begin bottle “C” and continue with this for the duration of treatment. When 1/4 of the second bottle in your order remains, please contact your veterinarian to place the next order.

Priming the Dispenser

To begin using the dispenser for any new bottle, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU FIRST PRIME THE PUMP by removing the colored plastic safety ring and depressing the pump several times firmly and quickly until a dose is released.

Warning: Keep the safety ring away from small children and pets as it may pose a choking hazard.

Store bottles at room temperature in an upright position. If your bottle is unused for more than a day or two, you may need to re-prime it to ensure doses are properly released.

Dispensing the Drops

Rest the dispensing arm of the pump on the lower teeth, anywhere near the front or side of the mouth, with the tip of the arm over the edge of the teeth (Figure 1). To administer, fully depress the pump firmly and quickly so that the dose is released into the mouth, preferably under the tongue. Repeat a second depression of the pump for a total of two pumps per dose. It is important to keep the bottle in an upright position while depressing the pump. It may be helpful to gently hold your pet's mouth closed while administering the dose (Figure 2). While you may not see the drops come from the pump, rest assured it is being dosed accurately.



Figure 1



Figure 2

Do not mix the drops with food or on a treat. The drops are highly palatable for most pets. Avoid giving food or water for 10 minutes after dosing to allow the drops to remain in the mouth as long as possible.

TWICE-DAILY DOSING

Administer the 2-pump dose twice per day, for example, morning and evening. The doses do not have to be given at the same time every day. If you miss a day, do not try to “catch up” by giving additional doses; just continue treatment the next day. Each bottle will last approximately 75 days. Order refill bottles through your veterinarian when 1/4 of the second bottle remains, or approximately 2–3 weeks before you run out. A typical order will last about five months; Therapy Drops expire after six months.

Possible Side Effects

Allergen-specific immunotherapy (ASIT) is one of the safest and best treatment options for long-term management of allergic conditions. Although very rare, reactions may occur following administration of the allergy drops, but these are usually mild and limited to itching or irritation inside of the mouth or on other skin surfaces. Your pet may show such a reaction by rubbing or scratching their face/muzzle or other sites. This type of reaction usually lasts for 5–10 minutes and generally resolves on its own; however, please contact your veterinarian prior to resuming treatment if any reactions are observed.

In the pages that follow, we have provided information on some of the allergens that are most associated with allergic diseases in dogs, cats and horses.

ENVIRONMENT— MINIMIZING EXPOSURE



In addition to immunotherapy, minimizing your pet's exposure to environmental allergens identified by positive reaction in ALLERCEPT IgE testing may be helpful in managing clinical signs. It is impossible to avoid and/or eliminate all allergens from the environment. Some suggestions are provided, but nothing can address the underlying problem better than immunotherapy.

HOUSE DUST MITES

House dust mites (*Dermatophagoides* and *Blomia* species) are common in any environment and feed on human and animal dander, skin scales and hair. They thrive in humidity of 50–70% and are commonly found in beds, mattresses, carpets, sofas and pet bedding. Elimination is impossible; control measures are aimed at inhibiting mite multiplication. Ideally, the entire household is incorporated in an environmental control program. If this is not possible, at a minimum, pet sleeping areas should be maintained according to the following guidelines:

- Wash bedding (human and pet) and soft dog toys weekly in HOT (130°F) water. Dry on full heat for at least 20 minutes.
- Avoid feather and wool bedding, use allergen-proof bed covers and encase box springs in vinyl or plastic covers.
- Minimize clutter where dust can collect.
- Change furnace and air conditioning filters regularly. If possible, use filters made for allergen control.
- Vacuum and dust regularly, preferably while pet is outdoors. Use a vacuum with a high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter or a double-layered micro filter bag.
- Use a damp or oiled rag to dust rather than dry dusting, which can stir up mite particles.
- Groom animal regularly.

STORAGE MITES

Storage mites (*Tyrophagus*, *Acarus*, and *Lepidoglyphus*) thrive in environments where there is moisture or increased humidity. They are primarily found in dry food items, such as flour, grains, dried fruits and cereal and may also occur in dry dog and cat food. Dry pet food contains some level of moisture (less than 10%), which can create an environment that promotes storage mite growth in certain environmental conditions.

Pets exposed to storage mites through ingestion or absorption through the skin may develop an allergy to them, and immunotherapy can be effective in reducing clinical signs. In addition, environmental control may be useful in decreasing exposure to storage mites. Although it is impossible to eliminate mites from the environment, the following steps may help control the population:

- Do not stockpile food; purchase only what is needed to maintain a 30-day supply.
- Prior to purchase, check the food bag for tears or holes.
- Store pet foods in airtight containers in a cool, dry environment.
- Divide the bag of pet food into one-week portions and place in freezer safe storage containers. Keep the containers of food in a freezer until needed.
- Wash food storage containers frequently with detergent and HOT water. Dry completely before refilling with food.
- Clean pet food bowls daily with detergent and HOT water. Dry completely before filling with food.
- Same control measures may be used for pet treats.

FLEAS

Fleas are one of the most common causes of itchy skin in pets. Fleas can cause itching in the following ways:

- Their physical presence causes scratching, biting and self-trauma, which develops into a perpetual cycle.
- Hypersensitivity, or allergy, to flea saliva injected when fleas bite.



Pets with hypersensitivity to fleas may develop flea allergy dermatitis (FAD), an extremely itchy disease which predisposes them to secondary bacterial and/or yeast skin infections. FAD should be considered a progressive disease; each flea season results in an increasingly severe reaction. A well-planned flea control strategy targeted towards all stages of the flea life cycle is essential for these patients.

An effective flea control program must involve the entire household, and all animals in contact with the affected pet. The goal is to eliminate fleas from the pet and the environment and prevent re-infestation. The following are recommendations for the house, the yard, and the pet:

The House

- Frequently vacuum and mop all floors (dispose of vacuum bag outside of the home).
- Wash kennel floors and pet bedding with hot water regularly.

The Yard

- Block off access to crawl spaces and treat with insecticides.
- Consider commercial extermination and outdoor spraying.

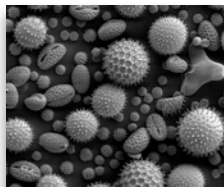
Your Pet

- Talk with your veterinarian about topical and oral flea control products for all pets in the household.

POLLEN ALLERGENS

Pollens from grasses, trees and weeds can be carried great distances by air currents. Pollen exposure most often occurs through inhalation of airborne particles and/or absorption through the skin. Avoidance is impractical, but exposure can be minimized.

- If possible, limit exposure to certain conditions and times of day, such as during high pollen counts, windy days, high humidity and early morning or evening hours.
- Vacuum and dust regularly.
- Use air conditioning instead of opening windows.
- Keep pet off of lawn for 1–2 hours after mowing.
- Bathe pet regularly with hypoallergenic shampoos, leave-in conditioners that soothe skin and cool water rinses to decrease pollen accumulation.
- Dry bedding in dryer instead of hanging outside.



Ask your veterinarian for more tips on managing allergies based on your pet's history, location, and test results.

MOST COMMON ALLERGENIC TREES, WEEDS & GRASSES

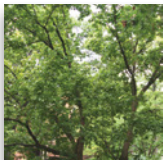
Trees

Box Elder

- Distributed throughout the U.S. and grows along streams and river banks.
- Leaves are typically 2 to 4 inches long with 3 to 5 (sometimes 7) leaflets.
- Bark is thin, gray to light brown with shallow interlacing ridges.
- Box Elder is considered a severe allergen.



©2002–2012 Steven J. Baskauf



©2002–2012 Steven J. Baskauf



©2002–2012 Steven J. Baskauf

Cedar

- Distributed in central and eastern U.S.
- Pyramidal in shape with a 10 to 20 foot spread and a height range of 30–50 ft.
- Consist of spicy-resinous scented wood, thick ridged or square-cracked bark and broad, level branches.
- Allergenicity of Cedar ranges from mild to severe depending on the species.



©2002–2012 Steven J. Baskauf



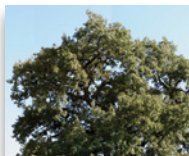
©2002–2012 Steven J. Baskauf



©2002–2012 Steven J. Baskauf

Oak

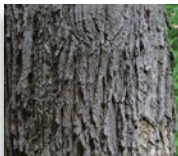
- Native to the northern hemisphere; found in central and eastern U.S.
- All are deciduous trees with toothed leaves and heavy, furrowed bark.
- Most oak species are considered a severe allergen.



©2002–2012 Steven J. Baskaf



©2002–2012 Steven J. Baskaf



©2002–2012 Steven J. Baskaf



©2002–2012 Steven J. Baskaf

Weeds

English Plantain

- Distributed throughout the U.S.; a common weed of lawns and roadsides.
- The flowers are borne on heads whose supporting stalks protrude from a mass of sword-like leaves; leaves are up to 12" long and 1" across.
- English Plantain is considered a moderate allergen.



©2002–2012 Steven J. Baskaf



©2002–2012 Steven J. Baskaf



©2002–2012 Steven J. Baskaf

Short Ragweed (Common Ragweed)

- Distributed across most of the U.S.; establishes along roadsides and in disturbed soil.
- Leaves are 1.5 to 4 inches long and hairy on the upper surface and margin.
- Produces enormous amounts of pollen grains; considered a severe allergen.



©2002–2012 Steven J. Baskauf



©2002–2012 Steven J. Baskauf



©2002–2012 Steven J. Baskauf

Yellow Dock

- Distributed throughout the U.S.; often found in disturbed soils and frequently along roadsides.
- Mature plants are reddish brown and can grow as tall as 4 feet.
- Consists of smooth leaves that shoot off from a large basal rosette; leaves have distinctive, waved or curly edges.
- Yellow Dock is considered a moderate allergen.



©2002–2012 Steven J. Baskauf



©2002–2012 Steven J. Baskauf



©2002–2012 Steven J. Baskauf

Lambs Quarters

- Distributed throughout the U.S.; typically found along roadsides, stream banks, gardens, lawns, and waste places.
- Mature plants can grow several feet tall and are capable of producing thousands of seeds.
- Stems have red streaks; leaves are either triangular or diamond-shaped.
- Lambs Quarters is considered a moderate allergen.



©2014 "Wildman" Steve Brill



©2014 "Wildman" Steve Brill



©2014 "Wildman" Steve Brill

Grasses

Bermuda Grass

- Distributed throughout the U.S.; except for the upper midwest.
- Used extensively on lawns, golf courses, sports fields, arenas and parks for its durability.
- A severe allergen pollinating from spring to fall.



©2014 Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Inc.



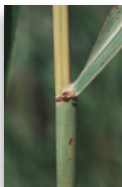
©2014 Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Inc.



©2014 Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Inc.

Johnson Grass

- Distribution is primarily in the southern two-thirds of the U.S.
- A very aggressive, weedy species that can grow to 8 feet tall.
- A moderate allergen which can pollinate all year long if the elevation and latitude are appropriate.



©2014 Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Inc.



©2014 Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Inc.



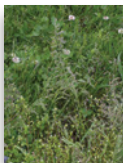
©2014 Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Inc.



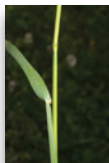
©2014 Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Inc.

Kentucky Bluegrass

- Distributed throughout the U.S.; grows along roadsides, in meadows, lawns, fields, woods and along stream banks.
- Dense grass with smooth, upright stems and boat-shaped leaf tips.
- Can grow to three feet tall and has clusters of greenish flowers at the top of the stems.
- Considered a severe allergen.



©2002–2012 Steven J. Baskaf



©2002–2012 Steven J. Baskaf



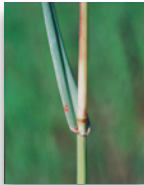
©2002–2012 Steven J. Baskaf

Rye Grass

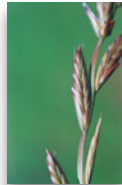
- Best suited for temperate climates and has a high growth rate.
- Typically found in meadows, fields, pastures, lawns, roadsides and in clearings.
- Grows in tufts or mats and can reach 1 foot in height.
- Rye grass is one of the most severe allergens in people.



©2014 Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation Inc.



©2014 Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation Inc.



©2014 Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation Inc.

COMMON FUNGI AND MOLDS

Molds are a type of fungus found indoors and outdoors in moist organic materials. Included in this group are rusts, smuts, mushrooms, toadstools, yeast and slime molds.

Outdoor Spore Levels

Outdoor spore levels vary throughout the day and year. Because levels are often higher near the ground, lawn mowing and grain harvesting result in increased dispersion of mold/fungal particles. Mold allergic animals may develop clinical signs following exposure to leaf litter, peat moss, mulches, soil and rotting logs.

Indoor Mold Levels

Indoor mold levels are commonly elevated when indoor air quality is poor (*i.e.*, the house is closed off to fresh, outside air). Common locations for mold growth include bathrooms, laundry rooms, basements, and closets. Specific equipment can also be contaminated; these include cool mist vaporizers, furnace humidifiers, air conditioners and swamp coolers.

Indoor mold control involves general cleanliness, reducing excessive indoor moisture (relative humidity less than 50%), and identification and remediation of known mold sources.

COMMON MOLDS AND THEIR LOCATIONS

Principal outdoor, minor indoor – *Alternaria*, *Fusarium* and *Cladosporium*

Principal indoor, minor outdoor – *Aspergillus* and *Penicillium*

Minor outdoor and minor indoor – *Dreschleria* and *Stephyllium*



©2024 Heska Corporation. All rights reserved. Antech, the Antech logo, and all other trademarks used herein are the registered trademarks of Antech Diagnostics, Inc. or its affiliates. HESKA and ALLERCEPT are registered trademarks of Heska Corporation in the U.S. and other countries. US23MD1101 003265-1