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 Date: Friday, September 24, 2021 at 11:46 AM
 To: Beth Holtzman Beth.Holtzman@uvm.edu
 Subject: RE: Goat grazing/browsing question

Long story short, bracken fern is generally the most concerning. Perhaps a county forester could help with plant ID if that is still a question?

Toxicity builds up over a few weeks and is not immediately detectable.

- 2) Given other nontoxic things to eat, a goat won't generally consume enough fern to develop toxicity.

My recommendation would be to offer plants (especially grasses and clover) in plenty addition to the ferns. Over time, look for ways to increase sunlight to the space and test for soil quality. These will help more "good plants" to grow and decrease the ferns. Another consideration is soil moisture if the ferns are growing primarily because the keep together. There are a number of ways to recognize that goats are taking care to have from Hope this helps!

Joe

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