

Deworming Schedule

Always consult your veterinarian regarding deworming; what to use and schedule to follow.

But here are general guidelines (note these can vary depending on which part of the country you live).

Deworming became widely used in the 1970's when over-the-counter paste became available to horse owners but the targeted parasite was large strongyles. During that time, it was recommended to deworm every two months, alternating between different classes of dewormers.

However, now small strongyles are the largest threat to adult horses and many parasites have developed resistance to dewormers.

Many veterinarians recommend using more targeted deworming practices, such as a Fecal Egg Count Test. A FEC test helps identify your horse as a low, moderate, or high parasite egg shedder and work to develop a targeted deworming approach. Typically this approach will result in a deworming schedule once or twice a year. However, horses that shed moderate to high numbers of parasite eggs should have additional deworming treatments during the grazing season when parasite transmission is high.

General Deworming Schedule:

Spring: Deworm after the first frost in the spring

Fall: Deworm in the last fall after a hard frost

Pregnant Mares: Deworm in the spring before foaling

Foals: Deworm every 8 weeks until they are yearlings.

Different medications used in dewormers:

- **Macrocyclic Lactones: (Ivermectin and Moxidectin):** used to kill large strongyles, small strongyles, ascarids, pinworms, and bots. Moxidectin will also kill encysted strongyles.
- **Praziquantel:** used to kill tapeworms
- **Benzimidazoles: (fenbendazole/oxibendazole):** used to kill large strongyles (not encysted), ascarids, and pinworms.
- **Pyrimidines: (pyrantel):** used to kill large strongyles, small strongyles, ascarids, tapeworms (if given as double dose), and pinworms.

Table 5. Deworming Products and Parasites they Control

Name	Ascarids	Adult Strongyles	Larval Strongyles	Tapes	Bots
Benzimidazoles	x	sometimes	no	no	no
Pyrantel	x	x	no	yes at 2X	no
Ivermectin	x	x	x	no	x
Moxidectin	x	x	x	no	x
5X Fenbendazole two days in a row (or 2X x 5d)	x	x	x	no	no
Daily pyrantel	x	x	x	x	no
Ivermectin + praziquantel	x	x	x	x	x