

Acetosella vulgaris
Syn Rumex acetosella

Common name:

Sorrel, Sour dock, Horse sorrel,

Palatability to Livestock:

Low.

Toxicity to Goats:

Low risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Sheep.

Poisonous Principle:

Oxalates.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Kidney stones, chronic kidney disease possible,
- . Staggers, shivers, twitching,
- . Scours.

Health and Production Problems;

- . After long term access, do not drive animals hard, or stress them in any way.
- . Cases appear between December and May, most in Feb and March.

Treatment;

- . Be aware of possible stock problems.
- . Try lime, water and magnesium salts.
- . See Vet.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Lime and fertilise the soil, which should reduce the sorrel content.
- . Try Dicamba with 2,4-D amine or MCPA, and/or Ally®.
- . Note: Herbicides which kill sorrel will also kill legumes.

Comments:

- . An erect, reddish, perennial plant growing up to 20 cms high with underground rhizomes.
- . The plant develops from an untidy rosette, with long leaves and stems.

- . Leaves are alternate, long and triangular, often with narrow lobes at the base, sour/acid taste.
- . Tiny flowers, male and female on different plants, red to yellow, on upright panicles, from September to November.
- . Stems are erect, with many branches.
- . Spread is by buds on the roots, and by seed which remains viable for many years.
- . Able to cope with drought, and very cold conditions.
- . The allelopathic effects of sorrel will kill other pasture seedlings.
- . Grazing by livestock seems to encourage the spread of the plant.
- . A native of Europe, now found all over Australia.
- . Tolerates drought, frost, snow, full sun, low fertility soils and sand.
- . A member of the "Dock" family.



Picture: Agdex 100/642 Helen Simmonds Calga.

Further Reading;

- . Blood, K. CRC Weed Management Systems. 2003.
- . Environmental Weeds. Field Guide for SE Australia, Cunningham, Mulham, Milthorpe and Leigh. Plants of Western NSW. 1999.
- . Lamp and Collett, Field Guide to Weeds. 1997.
- . McBarron. Poisonous Plants, Handbook for Farmers and Graziers. 1983