

Adonis microcarpa

Common name:

Small fruited pheasant's eye, Red chamomile,

Palatability to Livestock:

Not known to be eaten.

Toxicity to Goats:

Toxic, moderate risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Potentially toxic to all grazing animals.

Poisonous Principle:

- . Adonidin, a glycoside of phenanthrene.
- . Proto-anemonin.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Gastro-enteritis, and a digitalis-like action.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Occasional death, within 24 hours,
- . Clinical signs of cardio-respiratory failure.

Treatment;

- . Albumin water, absorbents, such as kaolin.
- . See Vet.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . There is a limited germination period in autumn, so cultivation and fertilizing may control this weed.
- . Broad-leaf herbicides, Group C or F.
- . Spot spray, or wick wipe, in May/June.
- . A declared "Noxious" weed in South Australia

Comments:

- . An annual, branched, erect herb, growing up to 60 cms high, with short roots and a dense crown, and spread by seed.
- . Leaves are alternate, bright green, and finely divided into narrow segments, lower leaves are stalked, upper ones attached to the stem.
- . Single flowers are bright red, or occasionally yellow, with a black centre, growing on a stalk.

- . Fruits are a pale yellow-brown, on a spike.
- . Seeds are black/brown, wrinkled, with a little green "beak".
- . The seed is easily spread by attaching to animal coats, clothing, and machinery.
- . Seeds sprout in autumn, and the plant grows rapidly, flowering in spring, and dies in summer.
- . Native to the Mediterranean, and spread all over the world as an ornamental plant, there are several species, all are toxic.
- . Found in most states, except Tasmania.
- . It is now naturalized on the north-west slopes of NSW, where it competes with medic pastures, a weed of roadsides, also a weed of cereal crops in South Australia.
- . Feeding tests with cattle have proved negative, but the plant has killed horses, sheep and pigs.
- . Adonin has similar properties to digitalis, - (Parsons and Cuthbertson)



Picture: (syn *A. dentatus*), Ute Guide.

Further Reading;

- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981
- . McBarron. Poisonous Plants. Handbook. 1983
- . Parsons and Cuthbertson. Noxious Weeds of Australia. 1997
- . Steginga. Poisonous Plants. Home, Garden, Bush. 2003.
- . Swarbrick and Skarratt. Bushweed 2 Database 1997
- . Wilson. Some Plants are Poisonous. 1997
- . Weeds: The Ute Guide. Grains Research and Development Corp. 1997