

## *Agapanthus spp*

### **Common name:**

Agapanthus, African Lily,

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Leaves are palatable.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Tubers are toxic to goats.

### **Toxicity to Other Species:**

Tubers are toxic to all livestock species.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

- . Yuccagenin, a haemolytic saponin.
- . Agapanthogenin, a steroidal saponin.

### **Effects:**

*Signs and symptoms;*

- . Burning of the mouth,
- . Gastritis,
- . Death.

*Health and Production Problems;*

- . Dispose of plants carefully.

*Treatment;*

See Vet.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Do not allow livestock to eat right down to the tubers.
- . Try glyphosates.,
- . Dig out tubers and root system.

### **Comments:**

- . A garden plant, gone feral, becoming a nuisance in many areas.
- . An evergreen, perennial plant, growing in leafy clumps to 60 cms high, reproducing from rhizomes and seeds.
- . Strap-like leaves, some varieties broader than others, also available in miniature forms.
- . Flower heads in big clusters, high above the leaves - mainly blue, sometimes in a white or pink form.

- . Flowers have six petals, in a trumpet-like shape, up to 150 flowers on the flower head.
- . Flowering is from October to February.
- . Dead flower-heads last for many months containing seeds.
- . Sticky sap can cause severe ulceration in the mouth, and irritation to the skin.
- . Spread is by seeds and rhizomes.
- . Leaves contain an irritant sap, but livestock are not affected; the rhizomes, however, are very toxic.
- . Native of South Africa.



Picture: *Agapanthus spp* Helen Simmonds. Calga NSW

### **Further Reading.**

- . Blood. Environmental Weeds. A Field Guide for SE Australia. CRC Management Systems. 2003
- . Copeland. Poisonous Plants in your Garden. 1997
- . Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004.
- . Wilson. Some Plants are Poisonous. 1997