

Ambrosia artimisiifolia

Common name:

Annual ragweed, Horseweed,

Palatability to Livestock:

Not known to be eaten.

Toxicity to Goats:

Low risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Potentially toxic to all grazing livestock.

Poisonous Principle:

Nitrates.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

. Nitrate poisoning causes respiratory distress, and darkening of the gums.

Health and Production Problems;

. Affected animals may be found dead, or die very quickly.

. Some may recover.

. Allergenic to humans, causing allergenic rhinitis from the pollen.

. Contributes to veg fault in fleeces.

Treatment;

. Try large amounts of Vitamin C, and dolomite.

Integrated Control Strategy:

Use herbicides, (Group I).

. Biological control agents are being tested.

. Hand pull small plants when the soil is wet.

. Avoid pollen if plants are in flower.

. Sow to improved pasture.

. Has an allelopathic effect on some onions, oats and lolium species.

Comments:

. Nitrate accumulating plants are frequently grazed without any adverse effects, providing stock are allowed to adapt to them slowly.

. The seed oil has potential for paint and varnish manufacture.

. An annual, shallow-rooted, erect plant, growing up to 200 cms high, with branched brownish stems and fine green leaves.

. Male and female flowers are pale cream to green, during summer to autumn.

. The seed has an awl-shaped beak, and a ring of spines.

. A serious weed of crops, spread by seed, germinating in spring.

. In pastures it has a nutrient composition equivalent to lucerne.

. Eaten at flowering and seeding, but not when dried off. Cattle eat it in the early growth stages, however, they may get a sore mouth.

. It is unpalatable to horses.

. A nuisance weed of coastal NSW and SE Queensland.



Picture: *Ambrosia artimisiifolia* Wikipedia

Further Reading:

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