

Anagallis arvensis

Common name:

Scarlet pimpernel

Palatability to Livestock:

Not readily eaten.

Toxicity to Goats:

Unknown.

Toxicity to Other Species:

- . Toxic to sheep, cattle, horses, and birds,
- . Maybe also to dogs, guinea pigs, and rabbits.

Poisonous Principle:

Glycocides, and other toxins.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . General depression,
- . Suspension of rumination,
- . Diarrhoea and thirst,
- . Incidence is variable.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Care should be taken to avoid forcing hungry animals to graze this plant, on fallow land.

Treatment;

See Vet.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Hand pull, or cultivate,
- . Herbicides if necessary.

Comments:

- . A small annual, occasionally perennial, herb with square stems, branching from the base.
- . Can be creeping or erect.
- . Leaves are opposite, shiny and stalkless.
- . Stems and underside of leaves carry tiny dark hairs; spreads rapidly during summer.
- . Flowers are dark orange/red, on long stems, only opening in sunshine; flowering is usually late winter to spring.

- . Fruit is a small globular capsule, which splits, showing 3-angled brown seeds.
- . A similar spp *A. foemina*, has blue flowers, and shorter stalks.
- . Native to Europe, and found on disturbed, damp soil, in gardens, waste places, and in semi-exposed sites, in temperate regions.
- . Stock seem to find this plant unpalatable.
- . Contaminated chaff may be toxic.



Picture: *Anagallis arvensis*

Further Reading:

- . Auld and Medd. Weeds. 1992.
- . Blood. . Environmental Weeds..Field Guide for SE Australia. CRC Weed Management Systems. 2003
- . Cunningham, Mulham, Milthorpe and Leigh. Plants of Western NSW. 1999.
- . Everist S. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981.
- . Lamp and Collett. Field Guide to Weeds in Australia. 1976.
- . Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004.
- . Steginga. Poisonous Plants Home, Garden, Bush 2003