

Arctotheca calendula

Common name:

Capeweed, Daisy chains,

Palatability to Livestock:

Variable.

Toxicity to Goats:

Low risk toxicity.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Potentially toxic to sheep, cattle, pigs and horses.

Poisonous Principle:

Nitrates.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Respiratory distress, gasping, rapid breathing,
- . Tremors, staggering, and collapse.
- . The gums may darken.
- . Scouring and enteritis in pigs.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Affected animals may be just found dead, or die very quickly. Some may recover.
- . Hairballs from seeds and buds can kill sheep.
- . Can cause hay-fever in humans.
- . This plant may contribute to “Australian Stringhalt” in horses.
- . May cause off-flavours in milk.

Treatment;

- . See Vet, treat as for nitrate poisoning.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Try goats.
- . Selective broadleaf herbicides, (Group C or I), Glyphosate®, Trifluralin® or Oryzalin®.
- . Soil compaction from machinery may encourage growth of this weed.
- . Often grows in magnesium deficient soils, so dolomite may help.
- . Declared “Noxious” in Tasmania.

Comments:

- . An annual or biennial, flat, rosette weed, a stemless plant with a large taproot.
- . Leaves are serrated and deeply lobed, with a white mat of hair on the lower surface.
- . Flowers are single and yellow on long stalks, with brown marks at the base of the petals, fading as they age, flowering in the spring.
- . The plant establishes in autumn, with the main growth during winter and spring.
- . It can withstand frost and drought.
- . Goats may eat this plant at all stages, from before flowering, through to the dried off stage.
- . The woolly seeds and flower buds may cause hairballs in sheep.
- . The plant may cause a taint in meat and milk products.
- . A native of South Africa, found in all Australian states, particularly in temperate regions.



Picture: *Arctotheca calendula*
Helen Simmonds. Calga. NSW.

Further Reading.

- . Blood. Environmental Weeds of SE Australia. CRC Weed Management Systems. 2003
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- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981.
- . Huggins and Lucy. Weeds of Southern Qld. 1997.
- . Kohnke. Feeding and Nutrition of Horses. 1998.
- . McBarron. Poisonous Plants, Handbook. 1983