

Brassica tournefortii

B. rapa

Common name:

Wild turnip, Mediterranean turnip,

Palatability to Livestock:

Highly palatable.

Toxicity to Goats:

May be toxic in excess.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Toxic to most grazing stock, in excess.

Poisonous Principle:

- . Glucosinolates, which after enzymatic breakdown give rise to irritant mustard oils.
- . Thiocyanates, which are goitrogenic.
- . Nitrates.

Effects:

Signs and Symptoms;

- . Respiratory; Difficult breathing, increased heart rate, jaundice, stagnant gut.
- . Digestive; Loss of appetite, stagnant gut, constipation.
- . Nervous; Blindness, aggressiveness.
- . Urinary; haemoglobinuria, loss of appetite, dark, foaming, urine.
- . Photosensitization in pigs and other white skinned animals, jaundice.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Most plants in this family have the capacity to produce strong flavours in milk and milk products, and also meat, when consumed by grazing animals.

Treatment;

- . Ensure that stock have a mixed diet to prevent goitre type problems.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Control achieved by grazing strategy.
- . Use goats.
- . Herbicides before flowering to control seed production. (Group B or I).

Comments:

- . An annual forb, with bright yellow flowers in clusters, light yellow, often with a lilac flush at the base of the four petals.
- . Erect stem, bristly towards the base.
- . Stalked hairy leaves grow from a rosette, variable in shape, having up to eight lobes.
- . The flowers are in loose clusters at the tips of the branches, opening from the bottom first.
- . Seed pods show the shape of the seeds inside.
- . Leaves of flowering stalks are lance shaped.
- . Found along roadsides, waste areas and sheep yards.
- . A native of the Mediterranean,



Picture: *Brassica tournefortii*
Helen Simmonds. Calga. NSW.

Further Reading:

- . Auld and Medd. Weeds. 1979
- . Everist S. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981.
- . Cunningham, Mulham, Milthorpe, and Leigh. Plants of Western NSW. 1999
- . Lamp and Collett. Field Guide to Weeds in Australia. 1976