

Calandrina spp

Common name:

Parakeela.

Palatability to Livestock:

High.

Toxicity to Livestock:

Low risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Potentially toxic to grazing animals.

Poisonous Principle:

Oxalates.

Effects:

Signs and Symptoms;

. Acute oxalate poisoning causes muscle tremors, staggering gait, collapse and rapid death.

Health and Production Problems;

. Chronic kidney disease with associated ill thrift is possible when large amounts of oxalate producing plants are eaten over long periods.

Treatment;

Be aware of potential stock problems.

Integrated Control Strategy:

. Herbicide, Group C.

Comments:

. A genus of short-lived, succulent, annual or perennial forbs, with deep taproots, growing in clumps.

. Very showy flowers are evident in spring, usually purple, with yellow centres.

. The fruits are about a centimeter across, spherical, and filled with numerous seeds.

. Plants grow mainly between autumn and spring, but occasionally, if there is plenty of water, may grow well into summer.

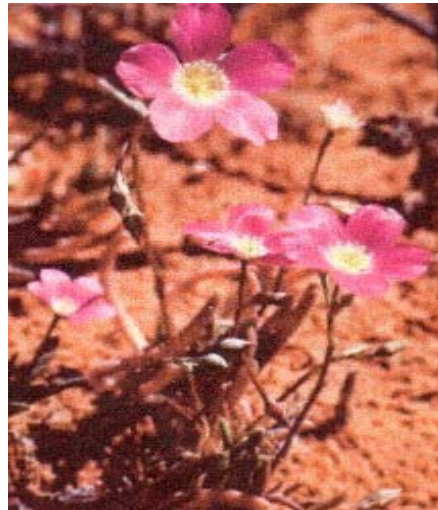
. The leaves are long, flat and fleshy, with an impressed vein along the centre, growing close to the ground.

. Flowers appear in spring or autumn.

. A variable species, in many ways, growth, leaves, flowers and habitat.

. A useful fodder plant, found in most states, and some gardens.

. This plant may occasionally cause problems, by overeating in times of stress, but it is generally eaten without ill effects.



Picture: *Calandrina spp*

Further Reading:

. Cunningham, Mulham Milthorpe and Leigh, Plants of Western NSW. 1999

. Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981

. Henry, Hall, Jordan, Milson, Sclafe and Silcock.

Pasture Plants of Southern Inland Queensland. 1995.

. Simmonds, Holst, and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000