

Euphorbia spp

Common name:

Spurge, Milkweed, Poinsettia, Caustic bush,

Palatability to Livestock:

Not known to be eaten.

Toxicity to Goats:

Low risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Potentially toxic to all animal species.

Poisonous Principle:

- . Diterpines, Cyanogenetic glycosides,
- . Euphorbone,
- . Unknown compounds.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Latex causes dermatitis, caustic to the skin and eyes, causing temporary blindness.
- . Fruits are purgative and toxic.
- . Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, delirium.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Toxins may be found in the milk of goats who have eaten this weed.
- . Sometimes causes sudden death, with no other signs.

Treatment;

- . Induce vomiting, in non-ruminants, then try activated charcoal.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Herbicides, Group C. Do not feed to any livestock.
- . Be aware of potential stock problems.
- . Proclaimed “Noxious” in some states.

Comments:

- . Cases of poisoning attributable to this spp are rare.

- . Erect annual or biennial herbs, exuding white sap, spread by seed. Often very spiny.
- . Leaves are varied, all exuding milky sap.
- . Flowers are small with no petals, usually red, to yellow, to orange, or creamy white.
- . Clustered in small cup like shapes, often surrounded by attractive bracts.
- . Fruits are borne on stalks protruding from the flower.
- . Livestock poisoning usually occurs after eating contaminated hay.
- . All parts are dangerous.
- . Use methylated spirits to remove latex, not water and soap,



Pictures: *Euphorbia spp*



Pictures: Helen Simmonds. Calga, NSW.

References;

- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981
- . Huggins and Lucy. Weeds of Southern Qld. 1997
- . Kohnke. Feeding and Nutrition of Horses. 1998
- . Lamp and Collett. Field Guide to Weeds in Australia. 1976.
- . Parsons and Cuthbertson. Noxious Weeds of Australia. 2001
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000
- . Wilson. Some Plants are Poisonous. 1997

Information included in this Info Sheet was obtained from the source documents, and no responsibility will be accepted by the compiler.

Information included in this Info Sheet was obtained from the source documents, and no responsibility will be accepted by the compiler.