

Galium aparine

Common name:

Cleavers,

Palatability to Livestock:

Seldom eaten, not much is known about this plant.

Toxicity to Goats:

Unknown.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Unknown.

Poisonous Principle:

Coumarin.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

In humans excess causes dizziness and vomiting.

Health and Production Problems;

Unknown, however, this plant may damage the mouths of livestock.

Treatment;

Nil.

Integrated Control Strategy:

. Be aware of potential stock problems.

Comments:

. An annual sprawling plant, with square stems that can cause cuts.

. Rough edged narrow leaves set in whorls, of six to eight leaves, joining the stem at the same point.

. There are tiny, backward pointing prickles on the upper surface, like hooked hairs.

. The leaves have no stalks.

. Native of Europe and central Asia now found in most of Australia.

. Flowers are small, white, funnel shaped and inconspicuous, in loose clusters, one mm long, mostly in clusters on the side branches.

. Seeds are 2 lobed, green turning purplish, densely covered with hooked hairs, appearing in early summer.

. The stems are coarse, square in cross section, with small backwards pointing prickles along the ridges.

. The plant dies late summer or autumn before frosts.

. Roots are fibrous, yellowish, and will not regrow if chipped off.



Pictures: *Galium aparine* Wikipedia

Further Reading:

. Roth. Weeds, Friend or Foe. 2001.

. Blood. Environmental Weeds. Field Guide to SE Australia. CRC Weed Management Systems.