

Hypericum tetrapterum

Common name:

St Peters wort,
Square stemmed hypericum,

Palatability to Livestock:

Moderate, before flowering.

Toxicity to Goats:

Moderate risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Toxic to horses, cattle and sheep.

Poisonous Principle:

. Hypericin, and pseudohypericin.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Mild diarrhoea,
- . Skin irritation, especially around head,
- . Reddening and swelling of face and ears,
- . Hind limb weakness,
- . Increased pulse and body temperature,
- . Excess panting and salivation.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Affected animals avoid the sun,
- . Rub sore faces raw, resulting in scabs.
- . Chronic ill-thrift and loss of production.

Treatment;

- . Provide shade.
- . Try local application of Condy's crystal.,

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Goats will eat this weed.
- . Try cultivation and herbicides – Glyphosates, 2-4-D.

Comments:

- . An erect perennial, looking like St John's Wort,
- . Stems are green to brownish, with black glands, several main stems develop from each crown.
- . Leaves are stem-clasping, opposite, oval and light green.
- . Flowers are yellow, daisy-like, at the end of branches in clusters.
- . The fruit is a small capsule containing many seeds.
- . This herb only appears in Victoria and NZ,
- . A native of North Africa and Asia.



Picture: *Hypericum tetrapterum* wikipedia

Further Reading:

- . Parsons and Cuthbertson
Noxious Weeds of NSW. 2001
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000.