

Ixiolaena brevicompta

Common name:

Flat billy-buttons, Plains plover daisy,

Palatability to Livestock:

Low.

Toxicity to Goats:

Moderate risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Potentially toxic to sheep.

Poisonous Principle:

Unsaturated fatty acids of the crepenynic acid type.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Muscle weakness, short strides, staggering, and collapse in hind legs,
- . Irregular heart action,
- . Increased temperature, and respiration.
- . At post mortem, the affected muscles of hind legs are pale in colour.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Continued ingestion may kill the animal.

Treatment;

- . Try selenium drench.
- . Remove stock from paddocks before plants are mature.
- . Keep young stock off this weed.
- . Be aware of potential stock problems.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Herbicides and cultivation.
- . Graze flood plains early to reduce the amount of plant available.

Comments:

- . Low growing, branched, annual or short lived perennial with a hard woody base.

- . Stems are slender, covered with white cottony hairs, rough and woody.
- . Leaves are green, very narrow, with no stalk.
- . Flowerheads are circular, single, yellow, with bristles at the base of the flower, in warmer months, flowers have a distinctive flat base.
- . Multiple seeds are angular and hairless.
- . Toxins are concentrated in the seeds.
- . Common in inland Australia, from central Queensland, to central NSW to SA .
- . Lambs are affected first, older animals die when driven.
- . Not normally eaten as it is fairly unpalatable.
- . Only mature dried seed heads are poisonous.
- . Trouble can occur in sheep of all ages, usually within two weeks after grazing has started, mustering may exacerbate the problem.



Picture: *Ixiolaena brevicompta* NSW flora online

References;

- . Dowling and McKenzie, Poisonous Plants. 1993.
- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981.
- . Henry, Hall, Jordan, Milson, Sclafe and Silcock. Pasture Plants of Southern Inland Queensland. 1995.
- . McBarron. Poisonous Plants. Handbook. 1983.
- . McKenzie. Clinical Veterinary Toxicology. 2000.
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke.. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000