

Lotus spp

Common name:

Lotus, Native birdsfoot trefoil,
Barwon lucerne,

Palatability to Livestock:

Moderate.

Toxicity to Goats:

Moderate.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Sheep and cattle.

Poisonous Principle:

.Cyanogenetic glycosides.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

. Sudden death.

Health and Production Problems;

Do not graze hungry animals on this plant.

Treatment;

. Try a molasses drench.

. See Vet.

Integrated Control Strategy:

. Be aware of potential stock problems.

Comments:

. *Lotus cruentus*, the red flowered variety is potentially fatal to livestock.

. May be prostrate or upright.

. Herbs or sub-shrubs, with pea-shaped flowers.

. Leaves have five leaflets, three at the tip and two at the base where the stalk joins the stem.

. Flowers, various colours, on slender stem, rising from the upper leaf forks.

. Pods are thin cylinders, and are the most toxic part of the plant.

. Most cases of poisoning are from the red flowered lotus, and the seed pod stage.

. Flowering is from July to October.

. A useful pasture species, unless it has pink or red flowers.

. Toxicity occurs when overeating occurs - when the plant is wet with dew or light rain, or the plant is young and has had a check in growth.

. The red flowered spp are more toxic than the pink and yellow flowered varieties.



Picture: *Kotus adunkus* Wikipedia



Pic: *L. cruentus* florabase.calm.wa.gov.au/science

Further Reading:

. McBarron. Poisonous Plants, Handbook.1983.

. Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981.

. Hussey, Keighery, Cousins, Dodd and Lloyd. Western Weeds. 1997.