

## ***Maireana spp***

### **Common name:**

Bluebush,

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Moderate.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Low risk.

### **Toxicity to Other Species:**

Potentially toxic to sheep and cattle.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

Oxalates, nitrates.

### **Effects:**

#### *Signs and symptoms;*

- . Acute poisoning causes muscle tremors,
- . Staggering gait,
- . Collapse, and sudden death.

#### *Health and Production Problems;*

- . Chronic kidney disease,
- . Associated ill-thrift.

#### *Treatment;*

- . Be aware of potential stock problems.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Control achieved by grazing management.
- . Avoid hungry stock grazing on the plant after rain.

### **Comments:**

- . There are many species, all are small, upright, perennials.
- . Herbs or sub-shrubs, growing all year round, up to a metre high.
- . Densely arranged, narrow, cylindrical, succulent, furry leaves, giving a bluish white appearance.
- . Flowers are mostly inconspicuous, very occasionally brightly coloured papery petals.
- . Fruiting body has papery wings, circular and light brown.

. A good fodder plant, but can be poisonous after rain, producing hazardous amounts of nitrates.



Picture: *Maireana astrotricha* AALBG

### **Further Reading:**

- . Cunningham, Mulham, Milthorpe and Leigh. Plants of Western NSW. 2001.
- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981
- . Henry, Hall, Jordan, Milson, Sclafe and Silcock. Pasture Plants of Southern Inland Qld. Qld DPI. 1995.
- . McBarron. Poisonous Plants, Handbook 1983.
- . Wrigley and Fagg. Australian Native Plants. 1981