

Marsilea drummondii

Common name:

Nardoo

Palatability to Livestock:

Seldom eaten.

Toxicity to Goats:

Moderate risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Toxic to cattle, sheep, horses and pigs.

Poisonous Principle:

- . Thiaminase,
- . Norsequiterpine glucocides.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Depression and confusion,
- . Apparent blindness and head pressing,
- . Anaemic condition,
- . Sudden collapse, and laboured respiration,
- . Small haemorrhages.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Chronic anaemia,
- . Ill-thrift and maybe death.

Treatment;

- . Thiamine by injection, see Vet.
- Be aware of potential stock problems.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . After floods, remove stock to nardoo free areas when other fodder is spent. Young green growth seems more toxic than dried off plant.

Comments:

- . A water fern, or herb, with a short creeping rhizome, leaves have a slender stalk tipped with four wedge-shaped leaflets, that float on the surface, or spread on dry land and look like a four leaf clover.
- . Most species are hairy.

- . Fruits on stalks contain spores.
- . Found mainly in inland areas, in depressions or river flats subject to flooding.
- . Different species are found in all mainland states.
- . Toxin levels are greatest in summer, and lowest in winter.
- . Often grazed without ill effect, but if they are the only plants available, there will be overdosing and stock losses.
- . Mainly sheep and horses are affected.
- . Plant toxins affect the brain and nervous system, similar to rock fern.
- . Good fodder plant under normal conditions, – high in fibre and tannins.



Picture: *Marsilea drummondii*

Further Reading:

- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981.
- . Dowling and McKenzie. Poisonous Plants. 1993
- . Henry, Hall, Jordan, Milson, Sclafe and Silcock. Pasture Plants in Southern Inland Queensland. 1995
- . Lamp and Collett. Field Guide to Weeds in Australia. 1979.
- . McBarron. Poisonous Plants, Handbook. 1983.
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats 2000.