

Portulacca spp

Common name:

Munyeroo, Pigweed, Purslane,

Palatability to Livestock:

Moderate.

Toxicity to Goats:

Potentially toxic.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Potentially toxic.

Poisonous Principle:

Oxalates and nitrates.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Muscle tremors, twitching facial muscles, staggering, collapse, coma and death.
- . Rapid gasping breathing, bluish gums, convulsions, and death.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Do not allow hungry stock onto these weeds, supply plenty of roughage.

Treatment;

- . Supply an adequate diet.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Trample the weeds to make them unpalatable.
- . Use glyphosates.

Comments:

- . Thick, succulent, prostrate, annual, with red or brown branched stems.
- . Fleshy leaves, may be tinged with purple, fleshy, shiny, oblong or wedge shaped.
- . Tiny yellow flowers in leaf axils, in spring to autumn.
- . Globular fruits, the top splits off to release seeds.

- . Seeds may set in cooler weather without the flowers opening.
- . Weed of disturbed ground, in tropical to warm temperature climates.
- . Found in all mainland states.
- . Grows during summer in stock yards, and heavily grazed areas.
- . Palatable to stock and humans.
- . Used to be eaten as a vegetable. High in unsaturated fatty acids, potassium and calcium.



Picture: *Portulacca spp*
Helen Simmonds. Calga. NSW.

Further Reading:

- . Everist. Poisonous Plants. 1981
- . Dowling and McKenzie. Poisonous Plants. 1993.
- . Henry, Hall, Jordan, Milson, Scheffe and Silcock. Pasture Plants of Southern Inland Queensland. 1995.