

## *Salsola kali*

### **Common name:**

Soft roly poly, Prickly saltwort,  
Buckbush, Tumbleweed,

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Moderate.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Low risk.

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

Potentially toxic to sheep and cattle, and horses.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

Oxalates.

### **Effects:**

#### *Signs and symptoms;*

- . Acute poisoning causes –muscle tremors,
- . Staggering gait,
- . Collapse,
- . Rapid death.

#### *Health and Production Problems;*

- . Chronic kidney disease with associated ill-thrift is possible when large amounts of oxalate producing plants are eaten over a long time.
- . When the plant is young it is capable of storing large amounts of nitrate.
- . Rapid death, after cattle graze too much young growth over 10cms high.

#### *Treatment;*

- . Be aware of potential stock problems.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Accumulates nitrates when young,
- . Do not overgraze pastures.

### **Comments:**

- . Annual, or biennial small shrub, growing up to sixty cms high.

- . Stems are succulent, and leaves are soft, all becoming brittle at maturity.
- . Many branches form a clump, which breaks off at the root when dry, and rolls away.
- . Leaves are succulent, grey-green, hairless, cylindrical and sharply pointed.
- . Flowers are inconspicuous, occurring singly in upper leaf axils.
- . The calyx develops into a small, circular, fruiting body that has a broad, wavy, whitish wing all around.
- . The plant is edible when young, but unpalatable when older and spiny.
- . Germination is rapid after spring or summer rain, stays green and grows for up to 2 years before maturity, when it breaks off.
- . Found in all states, as an early colonizer after rain. Occurs mainly in inland areas, but also occasionally on the coast.
- . Often found in horse paddocks, because horses find it unpalatable.
- . The plant is eaten readily when young, by sheep and cattle.



Picture: *Salsola kali* rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au

### **Further Reading:**

- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981
- . Dowling and McKenzie. Poisonous Plants. 1993.
- . Henry, Hall, Jordan, Milson, Schefe and Silcock. Pasture Plants of Southern Inland Queensland. 1995
- . Huggins and Lucy. Weeds of Southern Qld. 1997
- . Kohnke. Feeding and Nutrition of Horses. 1998
- . McBarron. Poisonous Plants, Handbook. 1983.
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000