

Senecio vulgaris

Common name:

Common groundsel,

Palatability to Livestock:

High at all stages.

Toxicity to Goats:

Moderate risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Toxic to horses, pigs, cattle and sheep.

Poisonous Principle:

Pyrrolizidine alkaloids.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Chronic weight loss,
- . Acute jaundice,
- . Photosensitization, especially white animals.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Eating an excess of this plant may lead to chronic liver damage.
- . Reduced long term productivity.
- . Damaged livers in some ruminants may accumulate excess copper, which can kill the animal.

Treatment;

- . None.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Spot spray.
- . Weed out into disposable bags.

Comments:

- . A low growing annual herb growing up to thirty cms high, with green to purple stems.
- . Leaves are narrow and oblong, deeply and unevenly lobed.

- . Cylindrical flowerheads are in small yellow bunches, from winter to spring.
- . Clusters of seeds have downy tufts at one end.
- . Native of Europe,
- . Found in all states of Australia.



Picture: *Senecio vulgaris* wikipedia

Further Reading:

- . CSIRO
- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981
- . Kohnke. Feeding and Nutrition of Horses. 1998.
- . Swarbrick and Skarratt. Bushweed 2 Database. 1994.
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000.