

## *Solanum elaeagnifolium*

### **Common name:**

Silverleaf nightshade,

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Moderate at all stages.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Low risk.

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

Potentially toxic to sheep and cattle.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

Steroidal alkaloid glycoalkaloids, solasodine.

### **Effects:**

*Signs and symptoms;*

- . Severe diarrhoea,
- . Severe nervous depression.

*Health and Production Problems;*

- . Weight loss,
- . Death, maybe due to heart failure, after one to two weeks of illness.

*Treatment;*

None.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Goats appear to have some resistance to this weed, which competes with crops and pastures.
- . Difficult to control by chemical or mechanical methods,
- . Herbicide, Group I, at late flowering,
- . Biological control methods are being tested,
- . Declared "Noxious" in most parts of Australia.

### **Comments:**

- . An erect perennial growing to about a metre high, mainly in summer, with a long and extensive taproot producing next year's growth; also spread by seeds.

. Stems and leaves may have prickles, and are covered with white hairs.

. Leaves ten cms long, tapering to a blunt tip, long and scalloped, with prickles.

. Flowers are in small groups, violet to blue, sometimes white, with long yellow anthers.

. Smooth round berry, green with stripes when young, and yellow to orange when ripe, becoming wrinkled.

. Native to USA, now naturalized in Victoria, SA, NSW and Queensland, as weed of disturbed ground.

. Berries seem to be the most toxic part of the plant.



Picture: *Solanum elaeagnifolium* wikipedia

### **Further Reading:**

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