

## *Stypandra spp*

### **Common name:**

Nodding blue lily, Blind grass,

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Low.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Moderate risk.

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

Toxic to sheep and cattle, horses, poultry.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

Stypandrol.

### **Effects:**

*Signs and symptoms;*

- . High-stepping gait and rapidly developing hind leg weakness, head carried close to the ground. -
- . Progressing to total paralysis,
- . Nervous depression,
- . Permanent blindness, incoordination, death.

*Health and Production Problems;*

- . Death within days, or gradual recovery.
- . Permanent blindness.

*Treatment;*

- . Nil.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

Be aware of potential stock problems.

### **Comments:**

- . These plants vary in their toxic content – some are not even toxic.
- . Young green shoots, and at flowering, seem to be the most toxic times.
- . A tufted perennial herb, with a rhizome and fibrous roots.
- . Clumps may be up to a metre across.
- . Erect aerial stems with opposite leaves.
- . Dainty blue to white flowers, in spring.

- . Seeds are black.
- . Variation of toxicity seems to be affected by the stage of growth of the plant.
- . Found in forest and woodland, in WA and eastern half of NSW, Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania.

. *Dianella sp,p* blue flax lily, and *Hemerocallis spp*, day lilies, cause similar problems.



Picture: *Stypandra spp*

### **Further Reading:**

- . Harden. Flora of NSW. 1993.
- . McKenzie. Veterinary Clinical Toxicology. 2000.
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000