

Vicia spp

Common name:

Vetchs, Broad Beans,

Palatability to Livestock:

High.

Toxicity to Goats:

Low.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Low, mainly cattle, sometimes horses.

Poisonous Principle:

- . Phytoagglutins,
- . Unknown toxins.

Effects:

Signs and Symptoms:

- . *Vicia faba*: In humans, headache, dizziness, anaemia, diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pains, fever and sometimes death.
- . The pollen may cause headaches, dizziness, soon after inhalation and other symptoms later.
- . Vetchs: In livestock, dermatitis, ill thrift,

Health and Production Problems:

- . In humans, ingestion of the raw or half-cooked seeds can cause acute toxic hepatitis in some people who have an inherited enzyme deficiency.

Treatment:

- . See Doctor,
- . For vetch toxicity, see Vet.

Integrated Control Strategy:

Be aware of potential problems.

Comments:

- . Annual forb, with white, to pink, to purple, pea-shaped flowers.
- . Leaves usually alternate, and with long alternate leaflets, terminating in a tendril.

- . The pods are indented between seeds.
- . Broad beans have flat round seeds used for culinary purposes; the plant is more widely used in colder climates than in the tropics.
- . Vetchs are sometimes sown as a fodder crop, or may be found as weeds of cereal crops, or in drainage channels.



Picture: *Vicia spp* Vetch.
Helen Simmonds. Calga. NSW.



Picture: *Vicia faba* flowers Wikipedia

Further Reading:

- . Covacevich, Davie and Pearn. Toxic Plants and Animals. 1987
- . McBarron. Medical and Veterinary Aspects of Plant Poisons in NSW. 1976.
- . Mckenzie. Veterinary Clinical Toxicology. 2000.