

Acalypha hispida

Common name:

Red Hot Cat's Tail

Palatability to Livestock:

Eaten occasionally.

Toxicity to Goats:

Unknown.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Toxic to humans, probably also to livestock and pets.

Poisonous Principle:

. Cyanogenetic glycoside, acaylaphin, resembling ricin.

Effects:

Signs and Symptoms:

- . Contact with white latex causes dermatitis.
- . Irritating action on mucous membranes when ingested.

Health and Production Problems:

- . Wear gloves when gardening.
- . Do not feed scraps to livestock.

Treatment:

- . Handle with care.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Do not feed to livestock.
- . Place prunings into bags and destroy.

Comments:

- . Garden plant.
- . A member of the euphorbia family.
- . A small shrub, sometimes used as an indoor or hanging basket plant.
- . Bright green, ovate, hairy leaves, with wrinkled margins, on long stalks.
- . Flowers are dark red, in long drooping spikes like a cat's tail.
- . Originally from India, growing in tropic and sub-tropic regions.



Picture: Helen Simmonds. Calga NSW.

Further Reading:

- . Steginga. Poisonous Plants - in your Home, the Garden, and the Bush. 2003.