**Acetosella vulgaris**
**Syn Rumex acetosella**

**Common name:**
Sorrel, Sour dock, Horse sorrel,

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Low.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Low risk.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Sheep.

**Poisonous Principle:**
Oxalates.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
. Kidney stones, chronic kidney disease possible,
. Staggers, shivers, twitching,
. Scours.

*Health and Production Problems;*
. After long term access, do not drive animals hard, or stress them in any way.
. Cases appear between December and May, most in Feb and March.

*Treatment;*
. Be aware of possible stock problems.
. Try lime, water and magnesium salts.
. See Vet.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. Lime and fertilise the soil, which should reduce the sorrel content.
. Try Dicamba with 2,4-D amine or MCPA, and/or Ally®.
. Note: Herbicides which kill sorrel will also kill legumes.

**Comments:**
. An erect, reddish, perennial plant growing up to 20 cms high with underground rhizomes.
. The plant develops from an untidy rosette, with long leaves and stems.
. Leaves are alternate, long and triangular, often with narrow lobes at the base, sour/acid taste.
. Tiny flowers, male and female on different plants, red to yellow, on upright panicles, from September to November.
. Stems are erect, with many branches.
. Spread is by buds on the roots, and by seed which remains viable for many years.
. Able to cope with drought, and very cold conditions.
. The allelopathic effects of sorrel will kill other pasture seedlings.
. Grazing by livestock seems to encourage the spread of the plant.
. A native of Europe, now found all over Australia.
. Tolerates drought, frost, snow, full sun, low fertility soils and sand.
. A member of the “Dock” family.

*Further Reading;*