**Agapanthus spp**

**Common name:**
Agapanthus, African Lily,

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Leaves are palatable.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Tubers are toxic to goats.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Tubers are toxic to all livestock species.

**Poisonous Principle:**
- Yuccagenin, a haemolytic saponin.
- Agapanthogenin, a steroidal saponin.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
- Burning of the mouth,
- Gastritis,
- Death.

*Health and Production Problems;*
- Dispose of plants carefully.

*Treatment;*
See Vet.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
- Do not allow livestock to eat right down to the tubers.
- Try glyphosates,
- Dig out tubers and root system.

**Comments:**
- A garden plant, gone feral, becoming a nuisance in many areas.
- An evergreen, perennial plant, growing in leafy clumps to 60 cms high, reproducing from rhizomes and seeds.
- Strap-like leaves, some varieties broader than others, also available in miniature forms.
- Flower heads in big clusters, high above the leaves - mainly blue, sometimes in a white or pink form.
- Flowers have six petals, in a trumpet-like shape, up to 150 flowers on the flower head.
- Flowering is from October to February.
- Dead flower-heads last for many months containing seeds.
- Sticky sap can cause severe ulceration in the mouth, and irritation to the skin.
- Spread is by seeds and rhizomes.
- Leaves contain an irritant sap, but livestock are not affected; the rhizomes, however, are very toxic.
- Native of South Africa.

**Further Reading.**
- Wilson. Some Plants are Poisonous. 1997