**Ageratina adenophera**

**Common name:**
Crofton weed.

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Moderate, but not at flowering.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Low risk.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Cattle, sheep and horses.

**Poisonous Principle:**
- Pyrrolizidine alkaloids,
- Compound tremol, Saponin, Tremetol.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
- Chronic weight loss,
- Sometimes acute jaundice, with or without photosensitization,
- Coughing, rapid heaving respiration,
- Sometimes death, with no other symptoms.

**Health and Production Problems;**
- Causes acute oedema of the lungs, followed by haemorrhage.
- Chronic ingestion may lead to liver damage, and reduced long term productivity.
- Chronically damaged livers in some ruminants may accumulate excessive copper, which may be released, and kill the animal.

**Treatment;**
- Antihistamines, antibiotics and corticosteroids may help.
- Many horses are left permanently useless.
- Note: in Qld – Tallebudgera Horse Disease.
  in NSW – Numinbah Horse Sickness.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
- Goats can tolerate many months of grazing crofton weed, and can eventually eradicate it, but other alternate fodder must be available.
- Crowns must be removed.
- Slash to prevent flowering and seed set.
- Use glyphosates.
- A declared “Noxious” weed in many areas.
- Try Grazon®, Starane® or Tordon®.

**Comments:**
- An erect, branched, perennial plant, found in eastern NSW and southern Queensland, related to mistflower and creeping crofton weed.
- Has a short, pale yellow rootstock, which has a caroty odour when broken.
- Leaves are opposite, triangular, bright green, and rather hairy, the edges are lobed.
- Flowers are small, white and in clusters, at the ends of branches, flowering in spring.
- There are numerous stems and branches, up to 2 metres high, growing from a large well-rooted perennial crown.
- The tall stems become woody with age, then collapse, and take root where they touch the ground.
- Cattle tend not to eat this plant, but sheep will eat small amounts.
- Horses have a preference for crofton weed, and are very vulnerable to poisoning. The slashed plant is still attractive to horses.
- Grows in disturbed, moist sites on fertile soils.
- Found on central and north coasts of NSW, southern Queensland and in South Australia, and occasionally in the Perth area.
- A native of Central America.

**Further Reading.**
- AGFACTS NSW
- McKenzie. Veterinary Clinical Toxicology. 2000.

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