

## *Allium spp*

### **Common name:**

Three corner garlic, Angled onion,

### **Palatability to livestock:**

Occasionally eaten.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Potentially toxic.

### **Toxicity to Other Species:**

Potentially toxic to all grazing animals, dogs and compost builders.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

Unknown, maybe an alkaloid.

### **Effects:**

*Signs and symptoms;*

- . General weakness.
- . Blood pigmented urine.

*Health and Production Problems;*

- . Death in severe cases.
- . The onion-like odour can taint meat, milk, and milk products.

*Treatment;*

N/a

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Annual cultivation, combined with herbicides.
- . Spot-spray before flowering.
- . Dig out and collect bulbs and bulbils into a disposable bag.
- . Best results are achieved by removing plants with bulbs attached when the previous year's bulbs have formed, usually just before flowering.
- . Herbicides will not kill the bulbs.
- . A "Declared" weed in some states.

### **Comments:**

- . A perennial plant, reproducing by seed, bulbs and bulbils.
- . Garlic-like herb, with flat leaves and small white underground bulbs; the leaves all come from the base of the plant.

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- . Long strappy leaves may be round and hollow, or flat and grassy.
  - . Clusters of small, white, drooping, star-shaped flowers on a single, triangular cross-sectioned stalk, usually appear in late spring.
  - . The white petals have a green central stripe.
  - . Pink, white or mauve flowers may appear on different species, flowering is from spring to summer.
  - . A winter growing weed in orchards, dairy pastures and gardens of coastal Australia.
  - . The plant dies back over summer, and germinates in autumn.
  - . Do not place any onion like refuse in the compost bin – worms do not like them either.
- . Everist: *Allium* family.  
Note: Cattle, dogs and horses have been poisoned by onions, either rotting, fresh or frosted. Can provoke severe anaemia and death. Sheep are less susceptible.



Picture: *Allium spp* Helen Simmonds. Calga. NSW.

### **Further Reading.**

- . Auld and Medd. Weeds. 1992.
- . Blood. Environmental Weeds. Field Guide for SE Australia CRC Weed Management Systems. 2003
- . Parsons and Cuthbertson. Noxious Weeds of Australia. 2001.
- . Roth. Weeds, Friend or Foe. 2001.
- . Simmonds Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000
- . Swarbrick and Skarratt. Bushweed 2 Database. 1997
- . Sainty, Abell, Jacobs. Burnams, Wild Things Around Sydney. 1989.