**Amaranthus spp**

**Common name:**
Amarynth, Redroot,

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Moderate at all stages.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Low risk.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Toxic to cattle and sheep.

**Poisonous Principle:**
Nitrates and oxalates.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
  . Nitrate poisoning causes respiratory distress, darkening of the gums, and rapid death.
  . Acute oxalate poisoning causes muscle tremors, staggering gait, collapse and rapid death.

*Health and Production Problems;*
  . Chronic kidney disease with associated ill-thrift is possible when large amounts of these plants are eaten over a long period.
  . Alternately, kidney disease can sometimes develop for a different reason, within 7 – 14 days, when large amounts of these plants are ingested.

*Treatment;*
  . Try large doses of Vitamin C, as well as dolomite.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
  . Let goats onto this weed, provided there is plenty of alternate feed.
  . Shade out with trees and shrubs.
  . Hand pull into disposable bags.
  . Chemical control with glyphosates.

**Comments:**
  . There are hundreds of species, many are weeds of disturbed ground.
  . Erect, branched, perennial plants, growing to about a metre tall.
  . Succulent when young, but becoming brittle with age.
  . Leaves are lance-shaped and dark green, and both leaves and stems have a reddish tinge.
  . Flowers in summer, in dense finger-like spikes, flowers are small and greenish.
  . Reproduces by seed.
  . The main growth is in summer and autumn.
  . Occurs over most of eastern Australia, mainly on waste areas and disturbed sites, or in natural pasture.
  . This plant is not dangerous under normal conditions, but in dry times with scarce feed, it may be dangerous to stock.

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