**Amsinkia spp**

**Common name:**
Iron weed, Tarweed, Yellow Burrweed, Fiddleneck,

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Seldom eaten.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Moderate risk.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Horses, pigs, cattle, and sheep.

**Poisonous Principle:**
Pyrrolizidine alkaloids.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
. Chronic weight loss,
. Sometimes acute jaundice, with or without photosensitization.

*Health and Production Problems;*
. Chronic ingestion of this plant may lead to significant liver damage, and loss of subsequent long-term productivity.
. Chronically damaged livers, in some animals, are inclined to accumulate excessive amounts of copper, which can ultimately be released and kill the animal.

*Treatment;*
. Be aware of potential problems. See Vet.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. Pre-emergent application of herbicide is the best control method.
. Wick-wipe or spot-spray with herbicide after germination. (Group B or C)
. Hand-pull into disposable bags where possible.
. This species must be controlled in the early stages, as several generations can grow in one season.
. This is declared noxious in Victoria, WA, and NSW.

**Comments:**
. Goats and sheep may tolerate many months of ingestion, but eventually risk being poisoned.
. If eaten for more than one season, and in large amounts, some animals may lose weight and become ill-thrifty, others may suddenly become jaundiced and die.
. An erect, winter growing, branched, annual forb, covered with stiff hairs, up to a metre high, sometimes growing from a rosette.
. Leaves are dark green to grey green.
. Small trumpet-shaped, yellow flowers are densely packed along one side of the stem, which is curved like a young fern frond, giving a “fiddle neck” appearance.
. As the flowers mature, the frond straightens.
. The plant dies off in summer, and germinates from seed after autumn rain.
. Several generations can grow in one season.
. There are three spp and several hybrids.
. Found in cereal crops and roadsides, and is spread by machinery and animal coats, causing a veg fault in fleece.
. Spread over the western slopes of NSW, and southern Queensland.
. Native to North America.

*Picture: Weed Control in Lucerne pastures. 1992.*

**Further Reading:**
. AGFACTS. NSW Dept Ag. 1997

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