

Bidens spp - (pilosa)

Common name:

Cobblers peg, Farmers friend,
Beggar's ticks.

Palatability to Livestock:

High at all stages.

Toxicity to Goats:

Low risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Potentially toxic to sheep and cattle.

Poisonous Principle:

Nitrates.

Effects:

Signs and Symptoms;

. Nitrate poisoning causes respiratory distress,
and darkening of the gums.

Health and Production Problems;

. Affected animals may just be found dead, or
die very quickly. Some may recover.
. Causes vegetable fault in fleece.
. May cause a taint in milk.

Treatment;

Nil.

Integrated Control Strategy:

. Use goats, preferably before seeding.
. Maintain vigorous grass, shrub or native
plant cover.
. Chemical control, "Group C" and slashing.
. Hand pull into disposable bags, before
flowering, to prevent seeding.
. Mow or graze before flowering.

Comments:

. Nitrate accumulating plants are frequently
grazed without adverse effects, provided stock
are allowed to adapt to them slowly.

- . A weak, erect, annual herb, with spreading
branches,
- . Opposite, bright green, thin, compound,
hairy leaves, and numerous terminal flower
heads, growing to about a metre high.
- . Four species occur in NSW, with different
coloured small flowers, ranging from white, to
cream to yellow, at the end of all branchlets.
- . Flowering is from summer to autumn.
- . Seed heads are ball-shaped, and the seeds
seem "sticky", with a barbed end, causing an
annoying veg fault.
- . A weed of disturbed areas, wastelands,
roadsides and gardens.
- . The plant will not regrow from the root.



Picture: *Bidens spp - (pilosa)*
Helen Simmonds. Calga. NSW

References;

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