**Bidens spp - (pilosa)**

**Common name:**
Cobbler’s 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.

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