**Calandrina spp**

**Common name:**
Parakeela.

**Palatability to Livestock:**
High.

**Toxicity to Livestock:**
Low risk.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Potentially toxic to grazing animals.

**Poisonous Principle:**
Oxalates.

**Effects:**
*Signs and Symptoms:*
. 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 oxalate producing plants are eaten over long periods.

*Treatment:*
Be aware of potential stock problems.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. Herbicide, Group C.

**Comments:**
. A genus of short-lived, succulent, annual or perennial forbs, with deep taproots, growing in clumps.
. Very showy flowers are evident in spring, usually purple, with yellow centres.
. The fruits are about a centimeter across, spherical, and filled with numerous seeds.
. Plants grow mainly between autumn and spring, but occasionally, if there is plenty of water, may grow well into summer.

. The leaves are long, flat and fleshy, with an impressed vein along the centre, growing close to the ground.
. Flowers appear in spring or autumn.
. A variable species, in many ways, growth, leaves, flowers and habitat.
. A useful fodder plant, found in most states, and some gardens.
. This plant may occasionally cause problems, by overeating in times of stress, but it is generally eaten without ill effects.

Picture: *Calandrina spp*

**Further Reading:**
. Cunningham, Mulham Milthorpe and Leigh, Plants of Western NSW. 1999
. Simmonds, Holst, and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000

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