**Cannabis sativa**

**Common name:**
Cannabis, Indian hemp, Marijuana,

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Some reports are that it is highly palatable, others say it is unpalatable and rarely eaten.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Low risk.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Potentially toxic to all grazing animal.

**Poisonous Principle:**
Tetrahydrocannabinols, (THC).
Choline,

**Effects:**
*Signs and Symptoms;*
. Nervous excitement, and difficulty in breathing, incoordination.

*Health and Production Problems;*
. Possible rapid death.
. Leaves and flowers may cause dermatitis.

*Treatment;*
Be aware of potential stock problems.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. A prohibited weed in most States.
. Control must be done under police supervision.
. Goats will eat this weed, and herbicides will also destroy the plants.

**Comments:**
. A summer growing, erect, annual forb, growing to about 1.5metres high.
. The leaves have 5-9 leaflets, are fan-shaped, with sharply toothed margins and prominent veins. They are dark green, and somewhat hairy on the surface, paler and more hairy below.

. Male and female flowers form on separate plants. Female flowers are inconspicuous.
. Male flowers are prominent, and shed pollen profusely.
. The plant has a strong smell.
. Reproduction is only by seed.
. There are many varieties grown overseas, for food, fibre (hemp), and medicines. Some plantations in Australia are grown under license.
. Some spp are valuable for the fibres, in the production of twine and cloth.
. Also as a source of oil for use in soap and paint.

Picture: *Cannabis sativa*  Wikipedia

**Further Reading:**
. Cherry JE. Fact Sheet. Central Northern CC. 1997
. DPI. Victoria. Landcare Note.
. McKenzie. Veterinary Clinical Toxicology. 2000
. Wilson. Some Plants are Poisonous. 1997

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