

## *Chloris spp*

### **Common name:**

Windmill grass, Winter Rhodes grass,

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Moderate when young.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Low risk toxicity.

### **Toxicity to Other Species:**

Potentially toxic to sheep and cattle.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

Cyanogenetic glycosides,  
(cyanide – prussic acid).

### **Effects:**

#### *Signs and Symptoms;*

- . Fall down and struggle to get up.
- . Shiver and shake.
- . Develop a rapid pulse.
- . Experience difficulty in breathing.

#### *Health and Production Problems;*

- . Death within hours, or rapid recovery.

#### *Treatment;*

See Vet.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Use goats.
- . Hand pull.
- . Wick wipe, or spot spray with herbicide.

### **Comments:**

- . Ruminants, such as the goat, can generally tolerate ingested cyanogenetic glycosides provided they do not eat large amounts in a short period.
- . Grazing of *C. Truncata*, has occasionally been associated with outbreaks of secondary photosensitization, a problem which is unrelated to the ingestion of these compounds.

- . Small to medium size perennial grasses, with erect stems, forming compact tufts.
- . The leaves are narrow, dull green and rough.
- . Seed heads consist of 5-10 narrow spikes spreading out from the top of the stalk, each side has tiny spikes containing the seeds.
- . The spread is by seed.
- . There are native and imported species, providing reasonable fodder.
- . Occurs in all states except W.A..
- . Occurs of wasteland or in pastures.
- . The imported species are useful in regenerating pasture.



Picture: *Chloris spp* Ciba-Geigy

### **Further Reading:**

- . Auld and Medd. Weeds. 1992
- . Cunningham, Mulham, Milthorpe and Leigh. Plants of Western NSW. 1999
- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981
- . Lamp and Collett. Field Guide to Weeds in Australia. 1979
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000