

## *Consolida ambigua*

### **Common name:**

Larkspur

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Not known to be eaten.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

High risk.

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

Toxic to all livestock species, domestic pets and humans.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

Polycyclic diterpenoide alkaloids.

### **Effects:**

*Signs and symptoms;*

- . Uneasy, twitching, weakness,
- . Stiff gait, sudden collapse,
- . Respiratory paralysis.

*Health and Production Problems;*

- . Death within hours.

*Treatment;*

See Vet.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Use herbicides.
- . Weed into disposable bags and burn.
- . Do not feed these plants to any livestock.

### **Comments:**

- . Garden plant.
- . An annual, and a “lesser” form of delphinium.
- . Roots, leaves, flowers and seeds are all poisonous. Stock losses occur when animals are given garden plants and clippings to eat.
- . An annual, fast growing, upright, branching garden flowering plant, with feathery, mid-green, alternate leaves.

. Flowering spring to summer, with tall spikes of rounded, spurred, double pink, blue or white flowers.

. Smaller and more open flower spikes than the delphinium.

. Propagation is by seed, which is tiny and black.

. All parts are toxic, especially the seeds, and the leaves which have irritants.

. Larkspur “spray” was historically used to repel lice and fleas on dogs and other pets.



Picture: *Consolida ambigua*  
Variety of colours, larkspur.

### **Further Reading:**

- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981.
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000.