

## *Craspedia chrysantha*

### **Common name:**

Golden billybuttons, Yellow drumsticks,

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Moderate at flowering.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Not known to be toxic,

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

Sheep cattle and horses.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

Cardiac glycosides, in dried plants.

### **Effects:**

*Signs and symptoms;*

- . Staggering, stiffness,
- . Rapid breathing, twitching,
- . Diarrhoea,
- . Temporary blindness after 24 hours.

*Health and Production Problems;*

- . Be aware of potential stock problems.
- . Avoid stock grazing this plant when it is mature.

*Treatment;*

See Vet.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Controlled grazing.
- . Use herbicides.

### **Comments:**

- . An erect, perennial, green-grey, woolly, herb, with a strong taproot, about 30cms high.
- . Several branched erect stems.
- . Leaves are grey-green and stem clasping, narrow, and woolly on the lower surface.
- . Flower heads are globular and bright yellow, like yellow drumsticks, about 8mm in diameter, and about 25mm long.

- . Many varieties, some are native to Australia.
- . Occurs in all states except Tasmania, mainly in inland areas.
- . May cause temporary blindness in horses.
- . In traveling cattle, deaths have occurred overnight, with colic and diarrhoea.
- . In sheep, deaths occur after mustering, especially after eating the mature plant.
- . Do not stress livestock, as death can occur up to three weeks after removal from the plant.
- . The plant seems to be most toxic when mature and drying off.



Picture: *Craspedia chrysantha*

### **Futher Reading:**

- . Auld and Medd. Weeds. 1992.
- . Cunningham, Mulham, Milthorpe and Leigh. Plants of Western NSW. 1999
- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981.
- . Konkhe. Feeding and Nutrition of Horses. 1998,
- . Henry, Hall, Jordan, Milson, Schefe, and Silcock. Pasture Plants of Southern Inland Qld. 1995.
- . McBarron. Poisonous Plants.Handbook. 1983.