**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 glycocides, 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.

*Further Reading:*
. Cunningham, Mulham, Milthorpe and Leigh. Plants of Western NSW. 1999

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