**Delphinium spp**

**Common name:**
Delphinium,

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Not known to be eaten.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
High risk.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Toxic to all livestock, and humans.

**Poisonous Principle:**
Polycyclic diterpenoid alkaloids – all related to aconitin. Very toxic.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
. Uneasiness,
. Stiff gait,
. Sudden collapse,
. Rapid pulse and respiration,
. Nausea and abdominal pain.
. (In **humans**, burning mouth, tingling skin, nausea, abdominal pain, weak pulse, laboured respiration, nervous excitement or depression. Leaves and seed may cause dermatitis.)

**Health and Production Problems;**
. Usually death within hours, but some animals may recover.
. Constipation and bloating are common features. Relieve the constipation, and they may recover.

**Treatment;**
. Induce vomiting, give activated charcoal.
. See Vet.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. Use herbicides, or weed out into disposable bags.
. Do not feed any of these clippings to any animal. **A garden plant.**

**Comments:**
. All parts of the plant are poisonous, especially the seeds and young leaves.
. A genus of perennials (and annuals – larkspur), grown for their long spikes of showy irregularly shaped, sometimes hooded and spurred flowers.
. Roots are in tuberous clusters.
. Leaves are alternate, and deeply lobed.
. Flowers may be white, blue or purple, flowering in spring.
. The plant may be palatable, and it is at its most toxic in the young stages – and when the plant goes to seed.
. Even when dried it remains toxic.

**Picture:** Delphinium flowers

**Further Reading:**
. Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats.

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