**Dieffenbachia spp**

**Common name:**
Dumbcane,

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

**Toxicity to Goats:**
High risk.

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

**Poisonous Principle:**
. Calcium oxalate crystals.
. Unknown protein toxin.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
. If leaves or stems are chewed, it causes copious salivation, and an intense burning and irritation of the mouth, lips and tongue.
. This is followed by a watery swelling, causing difficulty in breathing and talking.
. Skin and eye irritant.

*Health and Production Problems;*
. Some signs and symptoms will persist for many days before recovery begins.

*Treatment;*
. Rinse mouth with water. See Vet.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. Prune or weed into disposable bags.
. Do not feed to any livestock.

**Comments:**
. Garden plant.
. A genus of over 2000 evergreen annuals or perennials commonly grown as indoor, or outdoor plants, in pots, for their foliage.

. Leaves are large, soft and light green, often spotted, or patterned with white or cream, to 60 cms long.
. The plants grow up to two metres high, and are erect, with stout stems, but may need staking.
. Only the stems of these plants are toxic.
. Flowers are usually a spathe, a large bract enclosing a flower head or spadex, either green or white.
. All have attractive shiny leaves.
. Berries are brightly coloured.
. Some plants have needle-like crystals of calcium oxalate, which can puncture the skin causing much pain.
. Similar plants are *monstera* and *calandrina*.
. Legend has it, that this plant was used to prevent humans from talking by causing the tongue to swell.

**Further Reading:**

Information included in this Info Sheet was obtained from the source documents, and no responsibility will be accepted by the compiler.