**Digitalis purpurea**

**Common name:**
Foxglove,

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

**Toxicity to Goats:**
High risk.

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

**Poisonous Principle:**
Cardiac glycosides, digitoxin.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
. Depression,
. Diarrhoea,
. Slow irregular heart beat,
. Drowsiness, loss of appetite, convulsions.

*Health and Production Problems;*
. Sudden death in some cases.
. Little effect in others until mustered, when they succumb.

*Treatment;*
See Vet.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. Weed into disposable bags.
. Do not feed to any livestock.
. Spot spray if necessary.

**Comments:**
. Garden plant.
. Ruminants, such as the goat, are generally more tolerant of this type of plant poison than are horses.
. Digitoxin is a more powerful cardiac toxin to all animal species than other cardiac glycosides.

. If the plant is fed as a contaminant in hay, or garden clippings, problems will occur.
. Annual, biennial or short lived perennial robust garden plant, lower leaves on long stalks, upper leaves on very short stalks.
. Plants are similar to comfrey in their first year. Flowers occur in the second year, purple to white, spotted, thimble like and drooping, in long racemes.
. The leaves are soft, hairy and toothed, growing from a basal rosette, at first.
. The upper leaves are the more toxic, and at their most toxic before the seeds ripen.
. This plant does not seem to be palatable, to stock, and poisoning occurs with hay contamination.
. Spread by seed, and needs little soil to survive. Grow in wall crevices, roadsides, and pastures.

**Picture:** *Digitalis - flowers*

**Further Reading:**

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