

Dysphania spp

Common name:

Red crumbweed,

Palatability to Livestock:

Only when hungry.

Toxicity to Goats:

Potentially toxic.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Toxic to sheep and cattle, maybe horses.

Poisonous Principle:

. HCN, cyanogenetic.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Fall down, struggle to get up,
- . Shiver and shake, rapid pulse,
- . Difficulty in breathing,
- . Pain, sudden death.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Dangerous in times of poor feed,
- . Death within hours, or a rapid recovery.

Treatment;

- . Prevent hungry stock having access to this plant.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Be aware of potential stock problems.

Comments:

- . An annual, red-stemmed herb, usually prostrate, often turned up at the tips.
- . Leaves are alternate, succulent, a dull pale green, 6-12 cms long, and rounded at the tip, and tapered at the base to a slender stalk.
- . Flowers are very small and white, in globular clusters in the forks of each leaf.
- . Recorded from all mainland states and NT, chiefly in inland areas in silty or loamy soils.
- . Sprouts mainly after summer rain.
- . Has been suspected of poisoning sheep.

. *Dysphania rhadinostachyum*, Green crumbweed.

. A yellowish-green annual plant, seedling growth is prostrate, leaves 10-25cm long with wavy edges.

. Numerous erect unbranched crumbly seed heads appear – characteristic of the species.

. Flowers are inconspicuous, in small clusters.

. Downy green fruits enclose a tiny, shiny, reddish-black seed.

. Found on roadsides and waste areas.

. Not a palatable plant, only eaten in times of poor pasture growth.

. Not a great deal is known about the toxicity of this plant.



Pictures: *Dysphania spp*

Picture: florabase.calm.wa.gov.au



Picture: Qld DPI. Surveillance Snapshot.

References;

- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981.
- . McBarron. Poisonous Plants, Handbook. 1983.
- . Cunningham Mulham, Milthorpe and Leigh. Plants of Western NSW. 1999.
- . Surveillance Snapshot. Qld DPI 2003-1