**Emex australis**

**Common name:**
Spiny emex, 3 –corner Jack, Cats head, Double gee,

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Moderate.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Low risk.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Sheep, cattle, horses, donkeys.

**Poisonous Principle:**
Oxalates.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
- Muscle tremors,
- Staggering gait,
- Collapse and rapid death.

**Health and Production Problems;**
- Poor condition,
- Chronic kidney disease, if eaten over a long period.
- Veg fault in fleece.
- Mechanical injury to dogs feet.

**Treatment;**
- Be aware of potential problems.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
- Use “Prickle rollers”.
- Try goats in the early stages.
- Grub out and burn.
- Use herbicides. Try glyphosate.
- Cultivate. Seed is not viable if ploughed in to a depth of 10 cms or more.
- This is a declared “Noxious” weed in Victoria, parts of NSW and the rest of Australia.

**Comments:**
- An annual broadleaf plant, hairless, spreading, prostrate forb, with a large taproot, spread by seed.
- It develops as a rosette, from a deep taproot, with branched, creeping, trailing stems, sometimes red, which are hollow, or green and juicy.
- Leaves are alternate and oval, on short stalks, with wavy edges.
- Tiny flowers form in the leaf axils, in warmer months, giving rise to clusters of spiny triangular burrs, which always have one spine upwards.
- A weed of cereal crops and pasture, sheds, yards and roadways. Native of S.Africa.
- Seed germination is mainly winter and spring. If conditions are right it can flower all through the year.
- These weeds are often grazed without causing any problems. Oxalate accumulating plants can often cause a calcium deficiency state in horses.
- Stock will eat this weed in the seedling stage, and adult goats will eat the weed at all stages, preventing seeding, hopefully.

**Picture; Emex australis Brushoff**

**Further Reading:**
- Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000

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