**Helleborus spp**

**Common name:**
Christmas rose, Lenten rose,

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

**Toxicity to Goats:**
High risk.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Toxic to all livestock species.

**Poisonous Principle:**
. Cardiac glycosides.
. Narcotic properties.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
. Dark coloured diarrhoea, with blood and mucous,
. Frequent urination,
. Slow irregular heart beat,
. Excess salivation,
. Shortness of breath.

*Health and Production Problems;*
. Death after several days.
. Some species can cause dermatitis in humans.

*Treatment;*
. Be aware of potential problems.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. Garden plant.
. Weed out into disposable bags.
. Do not feed these garden clippings to livestock.

**Comments:**
. Low growing, ornamental plants, and cultivated widely as garden specimens.
. Winter to spring flowering.
. There are several species both deciduous and ever-green, all perennial.
. Leaves of various colours and shapes.
. Flowers usually large and cup-shaped, in soft colours, often creamy with a reddish tinge.
. Fruit is a pod, and seeds are dark brown.
. Native to Europe and Asia Minor.
. All parts, especially the roots, are very toxic, even when dry.
. A skin irritant to humans.

Pictures: *Helleborus spp*, flower colours

Further Reading:
. McBarron. Medical and Veterinary Aspects of Plant Poisons in NSW. 1976

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