

Hoya australis

Common name:

Hoya, Waxflower,

Palatability to Livestock:

Not known to be eaten.

Toxicity to Goats:

Unknown.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Cattle in inland Queensland, and maybe sheep.

Poisonous Principle:

Unknown.

Effects:

Signs and Symptoms:

- . Incoordination, collapse of either fore or hind quarters,
- . Muscle tremor,
- . Knuckling of fetlocks,
- . Recumbency,
- . Tetanic spasms.

Health and Production Problems:

Animals only mildly affected seem to recover.

Treatment:

- . See Vet.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Be aware of potential stock problems.
- . Do not feed clippings to stock.

Comments:

- . Garden plant, and one Australian native.
- . Evergreen, woody stemmed, climbing, and/or root climbers, with a milky sap.
- . Temperate climate plant grown for the foliage and flowers.
- . Leaves are succulent and sometimes waxy, or variegated, green to red to yellowish, in many shapes and sizes.

. Flowers are star-shaped and fragrant, always growing from the same site, and range in colour from white to pink to red to yellow.

. Propagated by cuttings, not seed, however will take root along the stem.

. Found in coastal and southern Queensland and coastal NSW.

. Deny stock access to the plant in dry seasons.

. The native variety is very toxic, but stock do not seem to favour the taste.



Hoya cultivar



Hoya australis

Pictures: Helen Simmonds. Calga NSW.

Further Reading:

- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1983.
- . McKenzie. Veterinary Clinical Toxicology. 2000