

Hydrangea macrophylla

Common name:

Hydrangea

Palatability to Livestock:

Not known to be eaten.

Toxicity to Goats:

Low risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

. Potentially toxic to all animals, including domestic pets and horses.

Poisonous Principle:

- . Cyanogenetic glycosides.
- . Alkaloids, saponins, resins.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Acute gastro-enteritis.
- . Skin irritation in humans.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Affected animals soon recover.

Treatment;

- . Try activated charcoal, or kaolin.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . A garden plant.
- . Prune clippings into disposable bags.
- . Do not feed any of this plant to any livestock.

Comments:

- . Deciduous, or evergreen shrubs growing to about two metres high, grown for their large domed or flattened flowerheads.
- . Upper leaves are shiny, oval and bright green, tapering to a point, with toothed margins.
- . Flowers are in large clusters, either white, or pink or blue, depending on the acidity of the soil.

- . Not all the flowers are fertile in the flowerhead.
- . Each flower has four petals, clusters may be open, or tightly packed.
- . Summer flowering.
- . Seed capsules are brownish, erect, with tiny seeds.
- . All parts may be toxic, and a skin irritant.



Picture: *Hydrangea macrophylla*
Helen Simmonds. Calga NSW.

Further Reading:

- . Copeland. Poisonous Plants in Your Garden. 1997.
- . Everest. Poisonous Plants in NSW. 1981.
- . McBarron. Medical and Veterinary Aspects of Plant Poisons in NSW. 1976.
- . Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004.