

Ipomoea calobra

Common name:

Weir vine

Palatability to Livestock:

Moderate.

Toxicity to Goats:

Moderate.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Potentially toxic to sheep and cattle, and horses.

Poisonous Principle:

Indole alkaloids.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Arched rump,
- . Tucked-up,
- . Staggering.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Chronic weight loss.

Treatment;

- . See Vet.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Use herbicides, try 2 4-D.

Comments:

- . A perennial trailing vine with large alternate, round or heart shaped leaves up to over ten cms across, on long stems.
- . Large woody roots and watery tubers grow about forty cms below the ground surface.
- . Trumpet shaped flowers are large, pink to mauve, about eight cms across, and grow in clusters.
- . Seed pods are round, two cms across, and contain four large seeds.
- . The plant dies back to its tuber in autumn, and regrows from this tuber or seed, in spring.

- . Flowering occurs after rain throughout spring and summer.
- . This plant is addictive, and stock seek it out after grazing once only.
- . Sheep show signs of poisoning after five weeks and horses after two weeks.
- . The resultant brain damage causes stock to appear blind and walk into things.
- . There is increased urinary frequency and output.
- . Recovery is possible in early stages, but there will be permanent damage after continued consumption.
- . Death is from starvation and thirst, and no treatment is available.
- . Only graze very occasionally to control vine.
- . Smoke from campfires burning this wood reportedly causes hallucinations in humans.
- . Only known in the Roma/St George area of Queensland.



Picture: *Ipomoea calobra* florabase calm.wa.gov.au

Further Reading:

- . AGDEX 647. Herbicide Control.
- . Dowling and McKenzie. Poisonous Plants. 1993
- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1983
- . Henry, Hall, Jordan, Milson, Sclafe and Silcock. Pasture Plants of Southern Inland Queensland. 1995
- . Parsons and Cuthbertson. Noxious Plants of Australia. 1992.
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000