**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.

**Further Reading:**
  - AGDEX 647. Herbicide Control.
  - Dowling and McKenzie. Poisonous Plants. 1993
  - Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1983
  - Henry, Hall, Jordan, Milson, Schefe and Silcock. Pasture Plants of Southern Inland Queensland. 1995
  - Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000

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