**Juniperus communis**

**Common name:**
Common Juniper

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Seldom eaten.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Possible.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Sheep, cattle.

**Poisonous Principle:**
Unknown.

**Effects:**
*Signs and Symptoms:*
- Premature birth,
- Retained placenta,
- Pyometra, pus in the uterus.

*Health and Production Problems:*
- Pine needle abortion.

**Treatment:**
- Nil.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
- Do not feed clippings to livestock.
- Be aware of potential stock problems.

**Comments:**
- Wide variation in toxin content of trees.
- Hardy evergreen conifer, to six metres high, varies from a spreading shrub to a small tree.
- Needle-like, aromatic, glossy, mid or yellow green leaves (or blue-green in some species).
- Male and female flowers grow on different trees, male – yellow flowers, female – green flowers, in early summer.
- Berries form on the female tree, globular to ovoid, fleshy, greenish berries, that become glaucus blue, then ripen to black in their third year.

- Animals seem to be affected in the third trimester of pregnancy. Similar symptoms to *Radiata* poisoning.

![Juniperus communis](image1.png)

**Reference:**
- McKenzie R. Veterinary Clinical Toxicology. 2000.