

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 glaucous 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.



Picture: *Juniperus communis* Wikipedia



Picture: *Juniper spp*

Reference:

- . McKenzie R. Veterinary Clinical Toxicology. 2000.
- . Mcvicar. New Book of Herbs. 2002