

Lantana camara

Common name:

Lantana,

Palatability to Livestock:

High at all stages.

Toxicity to Goats:

Low risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

- . Toxic to cattle and sheep, ruminants.
- . Not toxic to horses.

Poisonous Principle:

Triterpene compounds, notable lantadene.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Loss of appetite, depression,
- . Frequent urination,
- . Constipation, or transient foul smelling diarrhoea,
- . Dehydration,
- . Jaundice, and photosensitization of white body areas.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Sometimes partial recovery, with permanent liver or kidney damage.
- . Sometimes death within a short time.

Treatment;

See Vet.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Remove mechanically, burn, herbicides, pasture improvement.
- . Use goats on non-toxic varieties.
- . Biological control agents are being tested.
- . Declared "Noxious" in some areas.

Comments:

- . Toxicity is not tied to colour, but to type or variety, controlled by genetic factors, not environmental factors.

. A shrub up to four metres high, a scrambling, branched, perennial. Stems are square in cross section, with short hard prickles.

. Flowers are white, pink, red, yellow, orange, - tubular flowers, in small heads, most of the year.

. Fruit is toxic, (especially if green), ripening to black, growing in clusters.

. Leaves are smelly if handled, opposite, oval, slightly hairy, with toothed margins, and a distinct odour when crushed.

. Scratches are painful, and often fester, a skin and eye irritant.

. Eating berries can cause renal failure, even several weeks after ingestion

. All red and orange flowered forms appear to be toxic. Occasionally the northern pink variety may be toxic.

. Most red and orange forms, and the pink form north of Rockhampton, (Helidon White) are toxic. Purple form not toxic. *L. montevidensis*.

. Other varieties may not be toxic.

. Plants originated in S America.



Lantana camara



Lantana cultivar

Picture: Helen Simmonds. Calga NSW.

Further Reading:

- . AGDEX 647
- . Blood. Environmental Weeds. Field Guide for SE Aust. CRC Weed Management Systems. 2003
- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981.
- . Kohnke. Feeding and Nutrition of Horses. 1997.
- . Huggins and Lucy. Weeds of Southern Qld. 1997
- . Parsons and Cuthbertson. Noxious Weeds. 2001.
- . Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004.
- . McKenzie. Veterinary Clinical Toxicology. 2000.
- . Wilson, Some Plants are Poisonous 1997