**Lathyrus odoratus**

**Common name:**
Sweet pea,

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Not known to be eaten.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Moderate risk.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Toxic to all livestock species.

**Poisonous Principle:**
Cyano-amino acids.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
. Chronic, irreversible, nervous paralysis of the hind legs, or
. Chronic irreversible skeletal deformations.

*Health and Production Problems;*
. Affected animals progressively get worse, and eventually die.
. Be aware of potential stock problems.

**Treatment:**
Nil.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. Do not feed these clippings to any livestock.
. Weed out into disposable bags.

**Comments:**
. A garden plant.
. There are 130 species, all with pea like flowers.
. All species are stock poisons, the seeds in particular. They must be processed.
. Seeds contain a pathogen of human disease, “lathyrism”.
. *L. odoratus* Sweet pea, seeds contain cyano-amino acids, causing abnormalities in animals, and is a stock poison.

. If humans eat the seeds, they will cause slow pulse, depression, paralysis, and convulsions.
. A scrambling, climbing, annual herb, with angular stems, growing to 2m high.
. Leaves are divided into opposite, lance-shaped, hairy leaflets, the terminal leaflet is replaced with one or more tendrils, to enable it to climb.
. Flowers come in a range of colours, pea-shaped and in clusters.
. Flowers may be highly scented, occurring in late spring to summer.
. Pods are hairy, turning brown with age, and splitting along the edge, to expose the seeds.
. All parts may be toxic, esp seeds.

*Picture: Lathyrus odoratus*

**Further Reading:**

Information included in this Info Sheet was obtained from the source documents, and no responsibility will be accepted by the compiler.