Lotus spp

Common name:
Lotus, Native birdfoot trefoil,
Barwon lucerne,

Palatability to Livestock:
Moderate.

Toxicity to Goats:
Moderate.

Toxicity to Other Species:
Sheep and cattle.

Poisonous Principle:
Cyanogenetic glycocides.

Effects:
Signs and symptoms;
. Sudden death.

Health and Production Problems;
Do not graze hungry animals on this plant.

Treatment;
. Try a molasses drench.
. See Vet.

Integrated Control Strategy:
. Be aware of potential stock problems.

Comments:
Lotus cruentus, the red flowered variety is potentially fatal to livestock.
. May be prostrate or upright.
. Herbs or sub-shrubs, with pea-shaped flowers.
. Leaves have five leaflets, three at the tip and two at the base where the stalk joins the stem.
. Flowers, various colours, on slender stem, rising from the upper leaf forks.
. Pods are thin cylinders, and are the most toxic part of the plant.

Most cases of poisoning are from the red flowered lotus, and the seed pod stage.
Flowering is from July to October.
A useful pasture species, unless it has pink or red flowers.
Toxicity occurs when overeating occurs - when the plant is wet with dew or light rain, or the plant is young and has had a check in growth.
The red flowered spp are more toxic than the pink and yellow flowered varieties.

Picture: Kotus adunkus  Wikipedia

Pic: L. cruentus  florabase.calm.wa.gov.au/science

Further Reading:

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