

Lupinus spp

Common name:

Lupins,

Palatability to Livestock:

High.

Toxicity to Goats:

Low risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Toxic to all livestock.

Poisonous Principle:

- . Quinolizidine alkaloids.
- . Toxins from a fungus – named - *Phomopsis leptostromiformis*.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Dullness, loss of appetite and condition,
- . Increase in urinary copper excretion,
- . Decline in liver cobalt levels,
- . Jaundice, liver damage.
- . Sometimes photosensitization.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Possible birth defects.
- . Sheep in lupin paddocks that have been top dressed with copper should be watched closely, if after mustering, animals fall over, froth at the mouth, grind their teeth, breath with difficulty, or have convulsions.

Treatment;

- . Do not allow stock to eat large amounts without access to other fodder.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Pasture management.

Comments:

- . There are over 300 species, some are garden plants.

- . All are upright annual herbs, with branched stems.
- . Leaves are alternate, with several narrow leaflets radiating from a thin stalk.
- . Flowers are pea-shaped, ranging in colour from white, blue, yellow and pink, crowded in spikes at the end of long stalks.
- . They may be grown as garden flowers, vegetables, or crops.
- . Pods are rounded sometimes mottled.
- . Infected plants have dark brown water - soaked spots on the outside of pods, and white masses inside.
- . Useful fodder plant.
- . Good “green manure” plants.
- . Stock heavily during “safe” periods.
- . Crop lupins absorb pesticides and radiation toxins from the atmosphere, eg at Chernobyl.
- . Russel lupins have toxic leaves.



Picture: *Lupinus spp* Russel lupins.

Further Reading:

- . Everist. Poisonous Plants in Australia. 1981.
- . Wilson. Some Plants are Poisonous. 1997.