**Malva parviflora**

**Common name:**
Marshmallow, Small flowered mallow,

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Low.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Low risk.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Potentially toxic to sheep, cattle, horses and poultry.
. Causes “staggers” in sheep.

**Poisonous Principle:**
. Nitrates,
. Malvic acid,
. Unknown substances.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
. Muscle weakness and staggering gait,
. Trembling muscles, when forced to exercise,
. Increased heart rate,
. Increased respiratory rate,
. Animals relapse, and recover, in cycles.

*Health and Production Problems;*
. Affected animals may die, but most recover when removed from the plant.
. Eggs from poultry eating seeds or leaves show abnormalities.
. Do not stress stock till recovered.

**Treatment:**
. Be aware of potential stock problems.
. Good feed in moderate amounts.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. Use paraquat type herbicide.
. Cultivate and fertilise.
. Easily weeded out when the ground is moist.

**Comments:**
. A biennial herb with a single taproot, 60 cms high, semi upright, with a single taproot.
. Stems are branched, prostrate or erect, purplish in colour.
. Leaves are alternate, dull dark green, variable in size, rounded 7-lobed blade at the end of a stiff stalk.
. Flowers on short stalks, in small groups in leaf forks, white or very pale pink/lilac, spring to early summer.
. Fruit is button shaped, flatish, round and wrinkled on the upper surface, in autumn.
. Native to Europe, now a weed in all States, in temperate and sub-tropical areas, round buildings, roadsides, stockyards.
. Most poisonings seem to occur between July and October.
. Large amounts seem to cause “staggers”.

*Further Reading:*

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