**Melianthus comosus spp**

**Common name:**
Tufted honeyflower, Cape honeyflower,

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

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Low risk.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Potentially toxic to all animal species.

**Poisonous Principle:**
Cardiac glycosides.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
. Loss of appetite, cyanosis, cyanosis, tympanites,
. Depression, diarrhoea,
. Slow irregular heart beat, eventually heart block.

**Health and Production Problems:**
. Rapid death, in many cases.
. All parts are toxic.

**Treatment:**
Be aware of potential stock problems.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. Grub out and burn,
. Plough, rake and cultivate.
. Use herbicides.

**Comments:**
. Garden plant gone feral.
. A densely branched, erect, evergreen, shrub about 2 metres high, and 3 m across, with a foul smell.
. Branches are large, hollow and irregular in shape, and hairy.
. Leaves are crowded in tufts towards ends of branches, pinnate with 9- 13 leaflets.
. Leaves large, waxy and bright green, margins saw toothed, may have tiny star-shaped hairs on upper surface, with an unpleasant smell when crushed.
. Flowers in racemes on stalks, drooping at maturity, long, nodding dense spikes, reddish brown, foul smelling, in late winter to autumn.
. Inflated, angled, papery pods with shiny black seeds.
. Roots are creeping, suckering, and toxic.
. Reproduces by seeds and suckers, forms dense stands; regrows from rhizomes if cut down.
. Found SA and Victoria on degraded pasture.
. Honey may be toxic.
. Native of S Africa.
. Now found in all states in Australia, on roadsides, waste places, dunes and bushland.
. Tolerates most conditions.

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

References;
. Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004