

## *Nicotiana tabacum*

### **Common name:**

Tobacco.

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Seldom eaten.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Moderate risk.

### **Toxicity to Other Species:**

Livestock and domestic pets.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

Pyridine alkaloids, nicotine.

### **Effects:**

#### *Signs and Symptoms:*

- . Salivation, nausea, vomiting,
- . Diarrhoea,
- . Clammy cold skin, palpitations.

#### *Health and Production Problems:*

- . Long term smoking causes lung cancer.
- . Skin irritant, may cause allergies.

#### *Treatment:*

Do not smoke.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Legal restrictions may apply.
- . Weed out, use herbicide.

### **Comments:**

- . Native to tropical America.
- . An annual or short lived perennial, erect herb, growing to 3 m high, and 1m across.
- . Leaves are pale green, alternate, up to 45 cms long, oval, tapering to a point, and may have a covering of fine hairs.
- . Flowers are white, with pink or green shadings, long, slender, with a flared open tip, summer to autumn flowering.

- . Pods are round with many tiny seeds.
- . All parts are toxic, especially the leaves.



Picture: *Nicotiana tabacum*  
Helen Simmonds. Calga NSW.

### **Further Reading:**

- . Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004.