**Penisetum clandestinum**

**Common name:**
Kikuyu grass,

**Palatability to Livestock:**
High at all stages.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Low risk.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Potentially toxic to sheep and cattle,

**Poisonous Principle:**
. Trichotheccene mycotoxins,
. Nitrate, fluctuating levels,
. Oxalates, fluctuating levels.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
. Depression, loss of appetite,
. Drooling, dehydration,
. Constipation – or mild diarrhoea,
. Weakness, incoordination.

*Health and Production Problems;*
. Death in about two days, or a slow recovery.
. Mycotoxins are the biggest concern.

*Treatment;*
See Vet.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. A valuable pasture grass, controlled by slashing and glyphosates.

**Comments:**
. A perennial, creeping grass forming a dense sward, rooting at the nodes, and growing very thick if not grazed.
. Stems are tender and soft.
. Leaf blades are bright green, soft and a bit hairy.
. Seed heads very small.
. A native of eastern Africa.
. Used widely in Australia as a pasture grass.

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. A valuable pasture grass.
. This grass is only toxic when the fungus *Myrothecium* spreads, usually in association with army worm grub invasions.

**Picture:** *Pennisetum clandestinum*  Roundup.

**Picture:** Kikuyu grass. Helen Simmonds. Calga NSW.

**Further Reading:**