

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:

- . Trichothecene 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:

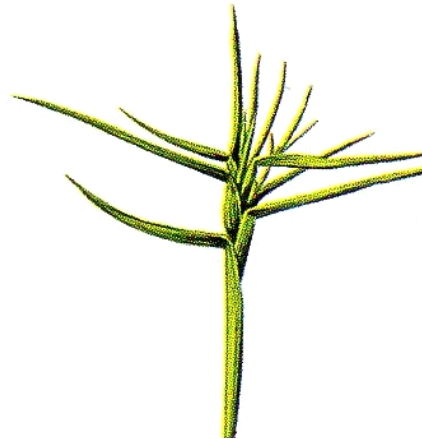
- . A valuable pasture grass, controlled by slashing and glyphosates.

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.

. A valuable pasture grass.

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



Picture: *Penisetum clandestinum* Roundup.



Picture: Kikuyu grass. Helen Simmonds. Calga NSW.

Further Reading:

- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia.1981.
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000.