**Phytolacca spp**

**Common name:**
Inkweed, Pokeweed, Dye berry,

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

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Not known to be toxic.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
. Humans, domestic pets and livestock.
. Maybe cattle, poultry, pigs.

**Poisonous Principle:**
. Toxic alkaloids,
. Phytolaccatoxin, a resin,
. Phytolaccigenin, a triterpene compound,
. Saponins and other unknowns.

**Effects:**
**Signs and symptoms:**
. Gastroenteritis,
. Irritation to the mouth.
. In humans, vision disturbances, tiredness, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea.

**Health and Production Problems:**
. Staining of fleece.
. In humans, a skin and eye irritant.

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

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. Sever the roots deep down and remove the plant. Cultivate, and pull out seedlings.

**Comments:**
. An erect, short lived herbaceous perennial which can grow to well over a metre high.
. Brittle spreading branches, and red stems growing from a large tap root.
. Leaves are alternate, light green, long, smooth, soft, pointed, oval shaped, with reddish stems.
. Greenish white small flowers, in dense spikes, flowers close together, at end of branches, appearing in the upper levels of the plant.
. Berries, turning purplish when ripe, succulent with red juice, near the ends of branches.
. Juicy black berries leave purple stains on fleece and coats.
. Plants give off an odour when damaged.
. Taproots can grow very large, a hand span in width, and up to a metre deep.
. Occurs as a weed in all mainland states, mainly in areas of good rainfall.
. Native to tropical America, found in all parts of Australia.
. The plant dies off in winter, but the dry sticks remain as a skeleton, the roots resprouting in spring.

**Further Reading:**
. Lamp and Collett.
. Cunningham, Mulham, Milthorpe and Leigh.
. Plants of Western NSW. 1999

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