

Proboscidea louisianica

Common name:

Purple devil's claw,

Palatability to Livestock:

Not eaten.

Toxicity to Goats:

Not toxic.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Not toxic.

Poisonous Principle:

Nil.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

Damaged mouths and feet in stock.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Seed capsules cause damage to shearing equipment.
- . Seeds cause lameness and hang-ups in sheep,
- . Veg fault in fleece.

Treatment;

- . Be aware of potential stock problems.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Dig out individual plants.
- . Mechanically remove before the pods form.
- . A declared "Noxious" weed in parts of NSW and Victoria.

Comments:

- . A spreading, low growing, annual plant.
- . Branches are hollow, covered with sticky hairs, which if damaged will ooze a sticky sap.
- . Leaves are variable in size, roundish, and not flat.
- . Trumpet-shaped flowers with a long lower lip, creamy white, to mauve, to purple flowers, with purple and orange spots.

- . The seed capsule forms a long, curved beak which splits at maturity to form two hard claws.
- . These claws may be up to 20 cms long, curved and hard, which make it very dangerous to grazing livestock.
- . Small black seeds are in the head of the pod.



Picture: *Proboscidea louisianica*
Noxious Weeds Poster

References;

- . Lamp and Collett
Field Guide to Weeds in Australia. 1979.
- . Parsons and Cuthbertson.
Noxious Weeds of Australia. 2001.