**Rhododendron spp**

**Common name:**
Rhododendron, Azalea,

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Eaten occasionally.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
High risk.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Toxic to all livestock species, and domestic pets.

**Poisonous Principle:**
- Tetracyclic polyl acetylandromedol.
- Modifies cell membrane sodium channels.
- Rhodotoxin.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
- Loss of appetite, depression,
- Repeated swallowing,
- Excessive salivation, nasal discharge,
- Bloating or vomiting,
- Abdominal pain, frequent defaecation,
- Difficulty in breathing,
- Cardiac arrhythmia,
- Skin and eye irritant.

*Health and Production Problems;*
- Coma and death.
- Sometimes recovery.

*Treatment;*
- Try egg-white, milk and Epsom salts, as a drench, (Everist)
- See Vet or Doctor.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
- A garden plant.
- Dispose of carefully or burn.
- Do not feed any of these clippings to livestock.

**Comments:**
- Rhododendrons, evergreen shrubs or trees, with leathery leaves, and showy flowers, tubular at the base. Grow in cooler climates.
- Azaleas, evergreen or deciduous shrubs, with thinner leaves, and broad showy flowers with a shorter tube, more tolerant of warmer conditions.
- Toxic to humans through honey from bees.
- Leaves are shiny green, lance-shaped, rough and leathery.
- Flowers are in many colours, bell shaped, in dense terminal clusters, spring to summer.
- Seed capsules with many seeds.
- All parts toxic, including the nectar.
- Skin and eye irritant to humans.

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