

Romulea rosea

Common name:

Onion weed, Guildford grass.

Palatability to Livestock:

Moderate.

Toxicity to Goats:

Moderate risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Toxic to sheep.

Poisonous Principle:

Unknown.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Limb weakness, knuckling over in the fetlock joints,
- . Incoordination,
- . Walking on the knees,
- . Recumbency.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Staggers, paralysis.
- . Breeding problems, failure to conceive, or maintain pregnancy.

Treatment;

Be aware of potential stock problems.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . A garden escapee.
- . Spotspray with glyphosates and “wetter” in winter.
- . Do not feed this weed to any livestock.
- . A declared “Noxious” weed in Western Australia.

Comments:

- . A small perennial herb with long narrow grass-like leaves, with two grooves on either side, growing from a bulb, deep in the soil.

- . Flowers are star shaped with red/purple petals.
- . Native to S Africa, and found in all southern states of Australia, usually in sandy soils.
- . Prefers bare, sunny, compacted ground, which is moist in winter.
- . Leaves form fibre balls in the stomach, which can block the gut.



Picture: *Romulea rosea* Brushoff

Further Reading:

- . CSIRO.
- . Everist. Poisonous Plants in Australia.1981.
- . Lamp and Collett. Field Guide to Weeds in Australia.1979
- . McBarron. Poisonous Plants, Handbook 1983 .
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000