

Salvia reflexa

Common name:

Mintweed.

Palatability to Livestock:

Moderate.

Toxicity to Goats:

Low risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Potentially toxic to sheep and cattle.

Poisonous Principle:

Nitrates.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Respiratory distress, rapid breathing,
- . Associated darkening of the gums,
- . Twitching.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Recovery, sometimes death.

Treatment;

Feed with hay before giving access to weed infested paddocks.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Cultivation, summer cropping,
- . Spray graze, using herbicide Group I.
- . Declared "Noxious" in Queensland.

Comments:

- . An erect annual herb, 15 – 60 cms high.
- . Stems are square, grey-green in colour.
- . Leaves are opposite with toothed edges, and blue green and soft, with fine hairs, blunt at the tip, in pairs, on a short stalk, a minty smell if crushed.
- . Flowers are in opposite pairs, or clusters along spikes at the end of branches; pale blue, lower lip longer than top lip.
- . Native to sub-tropical N America, found in NW of NSW and S Queensland.

. Germination is in spring, flowering summer to autumn.

. Cannot survive in dense, grassy pasture.

. The smell of the plant discourages stock from eating it, therefore only eaten if other feed is not available.

. A serious weed of cultivation.

. Affects hungry, inexperienced stock given access to lush stands of the plant when other feed is not available.

. Feed stock hay before letting them onto mintweed when it is wilted, or in overcast weather.



Picture: *Salvia reflexa* agric.wa.gov.au

Further Reading:

- . AGDEX 647.
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- . Lanting and Bunn. Noxious Plants in the 1991's
- . McBarron, Poisonous Plants, Handbook. 1983.
- . Parsons and Cuthbertson. Noxious Weeds of Australia. 2001
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000