**Senecio jacobaea**

**Common name:**
Ragwort, St James wort,

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Low.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Moderate risk.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Toxic to horses, pigs, cattle and sheep.

**Poisonous Principle:**
Pyrrolizidine alkaloids.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
. Chronic weight loss, dullness, loss of appetite, staggering, excitability,
. Acute jaundice,
. Maybe photosensitization.

**Health and Production Problems;**
. Excess in the diet may lead to liver damage.
. Loss of long term production.
. Damaged livers in some ruminants, may lead to an accumulation of copper, which when released will kill the animal.

**Treatment;**
. Be aware of potential stock problems.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. Spray graze, with an increased stocking rate.
. Will produce new growth from the cut crown, or small pieces left in the soil.
. Biological controls are being used.
. A declared “Noxious” weed in Tasmania, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia.

**Comments:**
. A biennial or short lived perennial herb, with a thick creeping rootstock.
. The stems are erect.
. Leaves are green, paler on the lower surface, and deeply dissected into narrow lobes.
. Flowerheads are in broad bunches at the top of the stems, yellow daisy type with twelve petals,
. Native of Europe.
. Found in NSW, Victoria, Tasmania, SA, and parts of WA.
. Sheep and goats are less susceptible than cattle.

**Picture:** Senecio jacobaea  Brushoff

**Further Reading:**
. AGDEX 647.
. Lamp and Collett.
. Parsons and Cuthbertson.
Noxious Weeds of Australia. 2001

Information included in this Info Sheet was obtained from the source documents, and no responsibility will be accepted by the compiler.