**Senecio quadridentatus**

**Common name:**
Cotton fireweed,

**Palatability to Livestock:**
High at all stages.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Low risk.

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

**Poisonous Principle:**
Pyrrolizidine alkaloids.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
. Chronic weight loss,
. Acute jaundice,
. Maybe photosensitization, especially in white animals.

*Health and Production Problems;*
. Eating an excess of this plant may lead to chronic liver damage.
. Reduced long term productivity.
. Damaged livers in some ruminants may accumulate excess copper which can kill the animal.

**Treatment;**
. None.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. Goats really enjoy this plant.
. Graze at early flowering.
. Tolerant to selective herbicides.
. Variability of the climate may lead to a natural increase or decrease in plant numbers.

**Comments:**
. A perennial, small, slender herb with erect branched, woolly stems.
. Leaves are narrow, pale green and cottony.

. Yellow flowerheads are small and narrow, in clusters at the end of stalks.
. Seeds are long and narrow, with a tuft of hairs at one end.
. Found in all states of Australia.
. Poisoning takes time to show – chronic scouring, followed by sudden death.
. Drought resistant.
. Growth is favoured by super top dressing.

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Picture: *Senecio quadridentatus*
Helen Simmonds. Calga NSW

**Further Reading:**
. Auld and Medd Weeds. 1992

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