**Solanum elaeagnifolium**

**Common name:**
Silverleaf nightshade,

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

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Low risk.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Potentially toxic to sheep and cattle.

**Poisonous Principle:**
Steroidal alkaloid glycosides, solasodine.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
  . Severe diarrhoea,
  . Severe nervous depression.

*Health and Production Problems;*
  . Weight loss,
  . Death, maybe due to heart failure, after one to two weeks of illness.

**Treatment;**
None.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. Goats appear to have some resistance to this weed, which competes with crops and pastures.
  . Difficult to control by chemical or mechanical methods,
  . Herbicide, Group I, at late flowering,
  . Biological control methods are being tested,
  . Declared “Noxious” in most parts of Australia.

**Comments:**
. An erect perennial growing to about a metre high, mainly in summer, with a long and extensive taproot producing next year’s growth; also spread by seeds.
. Stems and leaves may have prickles, and are covered with white hairs.
. Leaves ten cms long, tapering to a blunt tip, long and scalloped, with prickles.
. Flowers are in small groups, violet to blue, sometimes white, with long yellow anthers.
. Smooth round berry, green with stripes when young, and yellow to orange when ripe, becoming wrinkled.
. Native to USA, now naturalized in Victoria, SA, NSW and Queensland, as weed of disturbed ground.
. Berries seem to be the most toxic part of the plant.

Further Reading:
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