

Solanum nigrum

Common name:

Blackberry nightshade,

Palatability to Livestock:

Occasionally eaten.

Toxicity to Goats:

Moderate risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Toxic to sheep and cattle.

Poisonous Principle:

- . Glycocides, solanine, and others,
- . Maybe nitrates.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Diarrhoea and colic,
- . Depression and weakness,
- . Loss of appetite,
- . Difficulty in breathing,
- . Rapid, weak pulse,
- . Muscle shivers.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Weight loss,
- . Some animals may die.

Treatment;

- . Be aware of potential stock problems.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Hand pull, place in disposable bags if in flower.
- . Spot spray, using glyphosates.

Comments:

- . An erect or spreading herb, a short lived perennial.
- . Toothed, soft, alternate leaves are smooth, sometimes hairy, bright green, to purple green.
- . The main stalk is obliquely erect or maybe spreading and branched, with no prickles.

. White, or purple tinged, star-shaped flowers with five petals, on short, stiff stalks in the leaf axils.

. The fruits are green, turning shiny black, toxic especially when immature.

. Found in all Australian states, from moist to semi-arid areas.

. Seed spread is by birds, ingesting the seeds, and spreading seed through droppings.

. Flowering spring to autumn, berries mature into winter.



Picture: *Solanum nigrum*
Helen Simmonds. Calga NSW

Further Reading:

- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981.
- . Harden. Flora of NSW. 1992
- . Huggins and Lucy. Weeds of Southern Queensland. 1994.
- . Kohnke. Feeding and Nutrition of Horses. 1998.
- . Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004.
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000.
- . Swarbrick and Skarratt Bushweed 2 Database. 1994