**Taxus baccata**

**Common name:**
English yew,

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Not known to be eaten.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
High risk.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Toxic to all farm animals, especially horses and children.

**Poisonous Principle:**
. Cardiac glycosides, thevetin.
. Taxine, an alkaloid that depresses cardiac action causing it to slow, then stop.
. Hydrocyanic acid.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
. Trembling, excitement, staggering,
. Difficulty in breathing,
. Collapse, then death within minutes.
. In humans, skin rash.

*Health and Production Problems;*
. Most animals are just found dead.

*Treatment;*
. Try activated charcoal immediately, plus atropine.
. See Vet or Doctor.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. Weed or prune into a disposable bag.
. Do not feed to any livestock.

**Comments:**
. Garden or park tree.
. An evergreen shrub or small tree, slow growing, often kept in pots or used as hedges.
. Leaves are on short branches, leathery, short, narrow, with a prominent mid-rib, dark green, sometimes yellowish.
. Male plants have small, globular, pollen covered cones.
. Female plants have terminal, green, solitary buds on side shoots, flowering in spring.
. A red or yellow, fleshy, cup-shaped berry-like fruit on female plants, with a single brown seed.
. Native to northern Europe, an ornamental shrub.
. All parts except the fleshy red outer coating of fruits are very toxic. Toxicity depends on amount eaten.
. A skin irritant to humans.
. Livestock particularly horses, are vulnerable.

Further Reading: