**Trachymene spp**

**Common name:**
White / Blue parsnip,

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Low.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Moderate.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Sheep.

**Poisonous Principle:**
Unknown, toxin transfer through placenta and milk.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
- Irregular epiphyseal plates, (at long bones),
- Deviation of carpal joints,
- Staggering, diarrhoea, cyanosis.

*Health and Production Problems;*
- “Bent-Leg” of lambs.
- Do not allow pregnant ewes access to this plant.
- Do not drive young lambs fast if they have had access to this plant.

**Treatment;**
- Some lambs recover.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
- Be aware of potential health problems.

**Comments:**
- White parsnip, *T. ochracea* is an upright annual or biennial forb to 45 cm tall.
- Leaves are deeply lobed, and 5-7 cm long.
- Flowers are pale to deep blue, and form clusters one to two cm wide.
- Both plants grow best during cooler months, and flower in spring.
- Large numbers of wild parsnip can occur in overgrazed areas during years of late summer or autumn rain.
- Eaten when little other feed is available, and is most poisonous when fruiting or flowering in spring.
- There are two different effects on sheep:
  - If driven fast after eating the plant, young sheep may stagger and die suddenly.
  - Other signs include diarrhoea, paleness and blueness in the skin.
- On post mortem, fluid in chest cavity.
- Lambs with malformed legs, mainly fore legs (bent leg) may be born to ewes that graze wild parsnip in spring.
- Pregnant ewes should be denied access when the plant is in flower or seed.
- There is no treatment for affected animals.
- Ewes on pastures that have produced bent leg lambs may become infertile.
- Occurs SE Queensland, and NE of NSW.

**Further Reading:**
- Henry, Hall, Jordan, Milson, Schefe and Silcock. Pasture Plants of Southern Inland Qld. 1995

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