

Urochloa panicoides

Common name:

Liverseed grass, Urochloa,

Palatability to Livestock:

High at all stages.

Toxicity to Goats:

Low risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Potentially toxic to sheep and cattle.

Poisonous Principle:

Nitrates.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Respiratory distress,
- . Staggering and twitching,
- . Darkening of gums.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Not likely to be hazardous under normal conditions, but if large amounts of nitrate are accumulated it could be toxic, especially to animals under stress.

Treatment;

- . Feed with hay before giving access to weed infested paddocks.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Be aware of potential stock problems.

Comments:

- . A tufted annual grass, up to a metre tall.
- . Stems may be prostrate or erect, up to 30cms long.
- . Leaves are hairy on both sides, broad, flat, and tapered to a fine tip.
- . Seed heads are up to ten cms long, with several narrow racemes from a common stalk.
- . Seeds are oval, plump and pale straw coloured, with a few long white hairs.
- . Native to India .

- . Introduced as a fodder grass, naturalized in Queensland and NSW.
- . A weed of fallow land, roadsides, stockyards and waste places.
- . May be a weed of lucerne and summer grain crops.
- . Germinates after spring or summer rain.
- . Palatable and nutritious when green, less palatable when dried off or frosted.
- . Stock may be affected when the grass is wilted, or if the weather is overcast, or around stock yards where there is a high nitrogen content in the soil.
- . Do not persist with heavy continuous grazing.



Picture: *Urochloa panicoides* Ciba Geigy

Further Reading:

- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981.
- . Henry, Hall, Jordan, Milson, Sclafe and Silcock. Pasture Plants of Southern Inland Qld. 1995
- . Huggins and Lucy. Weeds of Southern Queensland. 1994.
- . Dowling and McKenzie. Poisonous Plants. 1993.
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000.

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