**Vicia spp**

**Common name:**
Vetchs, Broad Beans,

**Palatability to Livestock:**
High.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Low.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Low, mainly cattle, sometimes horses.

**Poisonous Principle:**
. Phytoagglutins,
. Unknown toxins.

**Effects:**

**Signs and Symptoms:**
. *Vicia faba:* In humans, headache, dizziness, anaemia, diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pains, fever and sometimes death.
. The pollen may cause headaches, dizziness, soon after inhalation and other symptoms later.
. Vetchs: In livestock, dermatitis, ill thrift,

**Health and Production Problems:**
. In humans, ingestion of the raw or half-cooked seeds can cause acute toxic hepatitis in some people who have an inherited enzyme deficiency.

**Treatment:**
. See Doctor,
. For vetch toxicity, see Vet.

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

**Comments:**
. Annual forb, with white, to pink, to purple, pea-shaped flowers.
. Leaves usually alternate, and with long alternate leaflets, terminating in a tendril.

. The pods are indented between seeds.
. Broad beans have flat round seeds used for culinary purposes; the plant is more widely used in colder climates than in the tropics.
. Vetchs are sometimes sown as a fodder crop, or may be found as weeds of cereal crops, or in drainage channels.

Picture: *Vicia spp* Vetch.
Helen Simmonds. Calga. NSW.

Further Reading:
. Covacevich, Davie and Pearn.
Toxic Plants and Animals. 1987

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