

***Xanthium occidentale***  
***X. pungens, Everist***

**Common name:**

Noogoora Burr,

**Palatability to Livestock:**

Low.

**Toxicity to Goats:**

Moderate risk.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**

Toxic to all grazing stock.

**Poisonous Principle:**

Carboxyatractyloside.

**Effects:**

*Signs and symptoms;*

- . Excitement, nervousness,
- . Trembling, stilted gait.

*Health and Production Problems;*

- . Death is rapid and painful.
- . Veg fault in fleece.

*Treatment;*

- . Milk, lard or vegetable oils may prevent poisoning.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Use herbicides, try 2,4-D, or MCPA.
- . Biological control – (rust)- in Qld.
- . Declared “Noxious” in Queensland.

**Comments:**

- . An annual herb with coarse, upright, branched stems, to over a metre high.
- . Toxic at the seedling stage, one to two weeks after germination.
- . Animals may die overnight; cotyledons are toxic, true leaves are not toxic.
- . After germination, true leaves appear from between the cotyledons, thin and covered in short bristly hairs, edges are toothed.

- . Stock are usually safe after this stage.
- . Leaves are alternate, rough to touch, dull green, 3-5 lobes, on long purplish stems.
- . Male flowers in small globular heads at tips of branches.
- . Female flowers in clusters, in forks of leaves, developing into characteristic burrs.
- . Brown, woody, oblong burrs two cm long, in clusters with many spines, 2 seeds, and 2 prongs at one end.
- . Found in Queensland and northern NSW, rare in SA.
- . A weed of summer crops and fallows, growing prolifically along watercourses and flood plains.
- . Most poisonings occur during spring, after rain, maybe because the other feed is in short supply.



Noxious Weed Control. Red Book. AWTA

Picture: *Xanthium pungens*

**Further Reading:**

- . AGDEX 647.
- . Cherry. Fact Sheet. Central Northern CC. 1997.
- . Dowling and McKenzie. Poisonous Plants. 1994
- . 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 Qld. 1994.
- . McBarron. Poisonous Plants, Handbook. 1983.
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000.