Zantedeschia aethiopica

Common name:
Arum lily, Cattle lily,

Palatability to Livestock:
Seldom eaten.

Toxicity to Goats:
Low risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:
Potentially toxic to all animal species.

Poisonous Principle:
. Insoluble calcium oxalate crystals.
. Coniine.

Effects:
Signs and symptoms;
. Severe purging and shock.

Health and Production Problems;
. Calcium oxalate crystals can pierce the tongue and allow the entry of an enzyme which causes irritation and swelling.
. All parts should be considered toxic.
. Irritating to the mucous membranes of mouth and throat.
. May cause excema in humans, and swelling of throat and tongue, gastritis, diarrhoea and exhaustion.

Treatment;
See Doctor or Vet.

Integrated Control Strategy:
Be aware of potential health problems.

Comments:
. Garden plants gone feral.
. Tuberous perennials, usually frost hardy, needing full sun and well drained soil.
. Leaves grow from the base of the plant, arrow shaped, large and leathery.
. Growth commences in autumn, forming large clumps of green leaves.

. Plant yellows off in mid summer, in areas of low rainfall.
. Underground rhizomes are short and thick, dense cluster of several large knobby tubers, with white fleshy roots, new tubers shoot from the rootstock, these can be toxic to livestock.
. Flowers are minute, on a yellow rod, called a (spadex), partially enclosed by a fleshy white leaf like structure (spathes), mainly August to February – (this part is very toxic).
. Fruit are green or yellow berries, orange when ripe, on the old spadex.
. Native to S Africa.
. Found in all states of Australia.
. An invader of pastures, coastal and riparian vegetation, seasonal or permanent rainforest, roadsides and rubbish dumps.
. Tolerates tropics to cold areas, sun, shade, frost, waterlogging, wind and salt.

Information contained in this Info Sheet was obtained from the source documents, and no responsibility will be accepted by the compiler.

Further Reading:
. Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004
. Wilson. Some Plants are Poisonous. 1997