

## *Acalypha hispida*

### **Common name:**

Red Hot Cat's Tail

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Eaten occasionally.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Unknown.

### **Toxicity to Other Species:**

Toxic to humans, probably also to livestock and pets.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

. Cyanogenetic glycoside, acaylaphin, resembling ricin.

### **Effects:**

#### *Signs and Symptoms:*

- . Contact with white latex causes dermatitis.
- . Irritating action on mucous membranes when ingested.

#### *Health and Production Problems:*

- . Wear gloves when gardening.
- . Do not feed scraps to livestock.

#### *Treatment:*

- . Handle with care.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Do not feed to livestock.
- . Place prunings into bags and destroy.

### **Comments:**

- . Garden plant.
- . A member of the euphorbia family.
- . A small shrub, sometimes used as an indoor or hanging basket plant.
- . Bright green, ovate, hairy leaves, with wrinkled margins, on long stalks.
- . Flowers are dark red, in long drooping spikes like a cat's tail.
- . Originally from India, growing in tropic and sub-tropic regions.



Picture: Helen Simmonds. Calga NSW.

### **Further Reading:**

- . Steginga. Poisonous Plants - in your Home, the Garden, and the Bush. 2003.