

Ambrosia confertiflora

Common name:

Burr ragweed,

Palatability to Livestock:

Moderate.

Toxicity to Goats:

Low risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Potentially toxic to sheep and cattle.

Poisonous Principle:

Nitrates.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

. Nitrate poisoning causes respiratory distress, and darkening of the gums.

Health and Production Problems;

. Affected animals may be found dead, some may recover.
. Serious veg fault in fleece.

Treatment;

. Try large doses of Vitamin C and dolomite.

Integrated Control Strategy:

. Use herbicides, do not cultivate.
. Biological agents are being tested.
. A declared “Noxious” weed in Queensland and South Australia.

Comments:

. Nitrate accumulating plants are frequently grazed without causing any ill-effects, providing stock are allowed to adapt to them gradually.
. An erect perennial, growing up to 21 cms high, forming large colonies of creeping runners.
. Reproduces by seed and runners.

. Stems and leaves are grey-green, with a soft fern-like foliage.

. Flowers are yellow-green, both male and female, on spiky racemes.

. Seeds are brown and woody, covered with hooked spines, which assist the dispersal of the seed.

. A problem in pastures, suppressing desirable species.

. Also found in orchards, competing for nutrients, and causing discomfort to pickers, with the pollen and burrs.

. Found in southern Queensland and scattered areas in NSW and Victoria.

. A native of Central America.



Picture: *Ambrosia confertiflora*

Further Reading:

. Auld and Medd. Weeds. 1992
. Parsons and Cuthbertson. Noxious Weeds of Australia. 2001
. Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000