

Ambrosia psilostachya

Common name:

Perennial ragweed, Western ragweed,

Palatability to Livestock:

Moderate.

Toxicity to Goats:

Low risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Potentially toxic to cattle and sheep.

Poisonous Principle:

Nitrates.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

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

Health and Production Problems;

. Contributes to veg fault in fleece.
. Affected animals may be found dead, or die very quickly.
. Allelopathic chemicals in the top growth, inhibit the growth of other plants.

Treatment;

. Try large doses of Vitamin C, and dolomite.

Integrated Control Strategy:

. Use herbicides and goats.
. A “Prohibited Weed” in Victoria.
. Do not cultivate, as the root system will spread.
. Biological control agents are being tested.

Comments:

. Nitrate accumulating plants are frequently grazed without any adverse effects, providing stock are allowed to adapt to them slowly.
. An erect, robust, perennial plant growing up to 150 cms high, forming dense colonies, and reproducing by creeping roots, and seed.

. The stems are hairy and bushy, becoming woody at the base.
. Leaves are grey-green, long and alternate, fern-like and rough to touch, aromatic, and with irregular edges.
. Male and female flowers on a spiky raceme, in spring to summer.
. Seeds are brownish, woody, with a beak and a rough tip.
. Found in scattered parts of southern Queensland, NSW, Victoria and South Australia.
. A native of America.



Picture: *Ambrosia psilostachya* Wikipedia

Further Reading;

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