

Ammi majus

Common name:

Queen Anne's lace, Bishop's weed,

Palatability to Livestock:

Moderate.

Toxicity to Goats:

Low risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Potentially toxic to sheep, cattle and poultry.

Poisonous Principle:

- . Nitrates,
- . Furanocoumarins, mainly in the seed.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Nitrate poisoning causes respiratory distress, and darkening of the gums.
- . Photosensitisation in poultry and cattle.
- . Reddening and blistering of non-pigmented areas.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Affected animals may be found dead, or die very quickly.
- . Some may recover.

Treatment;

- . Keep animals in the shade.
- . Keep stock away from the plants when seeding.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Use goats, and careful grazing management.

Comments:

- . Nitrate accumulating plants are frequently grazed without any adverse effects, providing stock are allowed to adapt to them gradually.
- . An annual or biennial, multi-stemmed plant, growing up to 1.5 metres high.
- . Leaves are finely divided, and light green.

- . Tiny white flowers are carried on short stalks, grouped in bundles, in spring and summer.
- . Commonly mistaken for parthenium weed, hemlock or ragweed.
- . Occurs in south-east Queensland, NSW and Victoria.
- . A garden escapee, found in disturbed wasteland, pastures and roadsides.
- . Used in some herbal remedies.
- . Livestock grazing this weed may become photosensitive, leading to cellular damage and inflammation – ensure they have shade.
- . A native of the Mediterranean.



Picture: *Ammi majus*

Further Reading;

- . Auld and Medd. Weeds. 1992
- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981
- . Huggins & Lucy. Weeds of Southern Queensland .1997.
- . McBarron. Medical and Veterinary Aspects of Plant Poisons in NSW. 1976.
- . NSW Agriculture. Keep Out Parthenium Weed.