

## ***Bidens spp - (pilosa)***

### **Common name:**

Cobblers peg, Farmers friend,  
Beggar's ticks.

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

High at all stages.

### **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 just be found dead, or  
die very quickly. Some may recover.  
. Causes vegetable fault in fleece.  
. May cause a taint in milk.

#### *Treatment;*

Nil.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

. Use goats, preferably before seeding.  
. Maintain vigorous grass, shrub or native  
plant cover.  
. Chemical control, "Group C" and slashing.  
. Hand pull into disposable bags, before  
flowering, to prevent seeding.  
. Mow or graze before flowering.

### **Comments:**

. Nitrate accumulating plants are frequently  
grazed without adverse effects, provided stock  
are allowed to adapt to them slowly.

- . A weak, erect, annual herb, with spreading  
branches,
- . Opposite, bright green, thin, compound,  
hairy leaves, and numerous terminal flower  
heads, growing to about a metre high.
- . Four species occur in NSW, with different  
coloured small flowers, ranging from white, to  
cream to yellow, at the end of all branchlets.
- . Flowering is from summer to autumn.
- . Seed heads are ball-shaped, and the seeds  
seem "sticky", with a barbed end, causing an  
annoying veg fault.
- . A weed of disturbed areas, wastelands,  
roadsides and gardens.
- . The plant will not regrow from the root.



Picture: *Bidens spp - (pilosa)*  
Helen Simmonds. Calga. NSW

### **References;**

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