

## ***Cardaria draba***

### **Syn. *Lepidium***

#### **Common name:**

Hoary cress, White weed,  
Thanet cress, Hoary pepperwort,

#### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Seldom eaten.

#### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Low risk.

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

Potentially toxic to sheep and cattle.

#### **Poisonous Principle:**

- . Indole, Non-protein amino acids,
- . Nitrates, Nitriles,
- . Isothiocyanates, Thiocyanate.

#### **Effects:**

##### *Signs and Symptoms;*

- . Indoles may cause a pneumonia syndrome.
- . Nitriles may cause primary liver damage with secondary photosensitization and or brain damage characterized by blindness and dullness.
- . Nitrates may cause respiratory distress and sudden death.
- . Thiocyanates may cause goiter in kids born to does grazing the plant.
- . Isothiocyanates may cause digestive disturbances involving rumen stasis and constipation.
- . Non-protein amino acids may cause anaemia with blood-coloured urine.

##### *Health and Production Problems;*

- . As above.
- . May taint mutton, and milk products.

##### *Treatment;*

Be aware of potential stock problems.

#### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Avoid cultivation, to avoid spread of plant.
- . Use herbicides, (Group I), or glyphosate, in July to September, but not in drought or in water-logged conditions.
- . Declared 'Noxious' in all southern States.

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#### **Comments:**

- . A member of the Brassica family, frequently eaten without ill-effects. Only occasionally poisonous.
- . An erect perennial forb, up to a metre high, with a large strong taproot, many branches, and a creeping taproot, and much branched root system.
- . Rhizomes from this root system can give rise to new plants.
- . Germinates in autumn to form a rosette, then grows rapidly in winter and spring.
- . Leaves are on short stalks, oblong, with varying notches, and covered with fine hairs.
- . Flowers are tiny, white and in bunches at the top of the plant; occurring in spring to summer.
- . Fruit is heart shaped, giving rise to a single seed.
- . Native of Europe.
- . Usually found in waste areas, poor pastures, and in cropping situations.



Picture: *Cardaria draba*

#### **Further Reading:**

- . Auld and Medd. Weeds. 1992.
- . Huggins and Lucy. Weeds of Southern Queensland. 1997.
- . Lamp and Collett. Field Guide to Weeds in Australia. 1976.
- . Parsons and Cuthbertson. Noxious Weeds of Australia. 2001.
- . Simmonds. Holst and Bourke, Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000
- . Swarbrick and Skarratt. Bushweed 2 Database. 1994