

## *Clematis* spp

### **Common name:**

Clematis, Old Man's Beard,

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Moderate.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Not known to be toxic, in small doses.

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

May be toxic to all livestock.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

- . Proto-anenonine.
- . Clemantine.

### **Effects:**

*Signs and symptoms;*

- . Skin blisters in humans.
- . May cause scouring in cattle.

*Health and Production Problems;*

Be aware of potential stock problems.

*Treatment;*

Nil.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Garden plant, many spp and varieties.
- . Use herbicides, do not feed to livestock.

### **Comments:**

- . Deciduous, ornamental, woody climber.
- . Flowers in loose clusters, giving rise to many seeds, which are spread by the wind.
- . Stems also root at the nodes.

*C. aristitata*, Australian Clematis,

- . Toothed leaflets.
- . Found in the eastern coastal districts and tablelands, Qld to Vic, and SA.
- . Suspected of poisoning horses and cows.
- . Dullness, loss of appetite, violent scouring, marked thirst.

*C. glycinoides*. Headache vine, Travellers Joy.

- . Vigorous vine, broad leaflets, not toothed.
- . All eastern Australia.
- . High rainfall areas, in gullies and edge of rainforest.
- . Unpalatable, but suspected of poisoning cattle in Qld.
- . If green leaves are crushed in the hand and sniffed strongly, they cause irritation in the nose and watering of the eyes, and are said to relieve headache. (Only young leaves in sappy growth).
- . Prolonged rubbing of the crushed leaf can cause blistering of the palms.

*C. microphylla*. Small leaf clematis.

- . Scrambler with wiry stems.
- . Narrow leaflets, only once or twice divided.
- . All mainland states, and into drier regions.
- . Irritation of the nasal passages.
- . Irritation and blistering of the skin, if left in contact for too long.

*C. vitalba* Travellers Joy, Old Mans Beard.

- . European species. Poisonous in UK.
- . Breathing difficulty, redness, swelling and protrusion of the eye. Loss of muscle tone, ulceration of the muzzle, abdominal pain, death. (lesions in a cow).



Picture: *Clematis* spp Helen Simmonds. Calga NSW.

### **Further Reading:**

- . Blood. Environmental Weeds. CRC . 2003
- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981.
- . Woodward. Australian Herbal. 1996