**Convallaria majalis**

**Common name:**
Lily of the Valley

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Occasionally eaten.

**Toxic to Goats:**
Moderate risk.

**Toxicity to Livestock:**
Moderate risk.
Toxic to cattle, sheep, horses, donkeys.

**Poisonous Principle:**
Cardiac glycosides, notably convallatoxin.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
. Depression,
. Diarrhoea,
. Slow irregular heart beat, eventually heart block.
. In humans, nausea, headache, heart failure.

*Health and Production Problems;*
. Rapid death in some cases.
. Little effect in others, until mustered, when they may drop dead unexpectedly.

**Treatment;**
. Do not feed this plant to any livestock.
. Be aware of potential stock problems.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. Dig out carefully into disposable bags.
. Dispose of cuttings carefully.

**Comments:**
. Garden plant.
. A slow growing rhizotomous perennial, with strap-like leaves, about 10 cms long, deeply ribbed to channel water to the roots.
. Leaves are mid-green, and unequal in size.
. One-sided sprays of fragrant, pendant, bell-shaped white flowers, in spring.
. Plant prefers cooler climates.
. Ruminants, such as the goat, are much more tolerant of this type of plant poison than are horses and donkeys.
. Reproduces by root division.
. Floral emblem of Finland.
. Toxins are very potent in the berries, which are round and red, with many seeds.
. All parts, particularly the berries, are toxic.

Further Reading:
. Wilson. Some Plants are Poisonous. 1997

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