

## *Delphinium spp*

### **Common name:**

Delphinium,

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Not known to be eaten.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

High risk.

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

Toxic to all livestock, and humans.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

Polycyclic diterpenoid alkaloids – all related to aconitin. Very toxic.

### **Effects:**

#### *Signs and symptoms;*

- . Uneasiness,
- . Stiff gait,
- . Sudden collapse,
- . Rapid pulse and respiration,
- . Nausea and abdominal pain.
- . (In humans, burning mouth, tingling skin, nausea, abdominal pain, weak pulse, laboured respiration, nervous excitement or depression. Leaves and seed may cause dermatitis.)

#### *Health and Production Problems;*

- . Usually death within hours, but some animals may recover.
- . Constipation and bloating are common features. Relieve the constipation, and they may recover.

#### *Treatment;*

- . Induce vomiting, give activated charcoal.
- . See Vet.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Use herbicides, or weed out into disposable bags.
- . Do not feed any of these clippings to any animal. A garden plant.

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### **Comments:**

- . All parts of the plant are poisonous, especially the seeds and young leaves.
- . A genus of perennials (and annuals – larkspur), grown for their long spikes of showy irregularly shaped, sometimes hooded and spurred flowers.
- . Roots are in tuberous clusters.
- . Leaves are alternate, and deeply lobed.
- . Flowers may be white, blue or purple, flowering in spring.
- . The plant may be palatable, and it is at its most toxic in the young stages – and when the plant goes to seed.
- . Even when dried it remains toxic.



Picture: *Delphinium* flowers

### **Further Reading:**

- . Covacevich, Davies and Pearn. Toxic Plants and Animals of Australia. 1987.
- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats.
- . Steginga. Poisonous Plants, Home, Garden and Bush. 2003.