

Genista linifolia

Common name:

Flax-leaved broom.

Palatability to Livestock:

High at all stages, seeds are very toxic.

Toxicity to Goats:

Not known to be toxic,

Toxicity to Other Species:

May affect all grazing stock.

Poisonous Principle:

Cytisine.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Nausea, convulsions.
- . Respiratory failure.
- . Seeds may be toxic to humans.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Purgative effects from seeds.
- . May cause congenital deformities in livestock.

Treatment;

Be aware of potential stock problems.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Try goats at all stages.
- . Hand pull small plants when soil is moist.
- . Grub out and burn.
- . Stem inject, or cut stump treatment.
- . Cultivate and apply herbicides to regrowth.

Comments:

- . Evergreen shrub up to three metres high.
- . Leaves have 3 leaflets, with rolled edges, are bright green, smooth above and silky white below. Not deciduous.
- . Clusters of bright yellow pea like flowers are always at the end of the branches.

- . Seeds are ejected from the pods in summer, and germination takes place in spring. May have a prolonged dormancy.
- . A weed of roadsides, drains and grazing land.
- . The seed is spread by birds, vehicles, and stock dispersed seed.
- . A great habitat for rabbits.
- . Forms dense clumps, and invades pasture.
- . Flowering does not take place for a couple of years after germination, until it is quite mature.



Picture: *Genista linifolia* dpi.vic.gov.au

Further Reading:

- . Blood. Environmental Weeds. Field Guide for SE Australia. CRC Weed Management Systems 2003.
- . Lamp and Collett. Field Guide to Weeds in Australia. 1979.
- . Parsons and Cuthbertson. Noxious Weeds in Australia. 2001.
- . Swarbrick and Skarratt. Bushweed 2 Database. 1994.
- . Wilson. Some Plants are Poisonous. 1997