

Hedera helix

Common name:

English Ivy,

Palatability to Livestock:

Not eaten.

Toxicity to Goats:

Unknown.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Toxic to domestic pets, and humans.

Poisonous Principle:

- . Saponins, hederin,
- . Irritants, faltarinol,
- . Other toxins.

Effects:

Signs and Symptoms:

- . Diarrhoea,
- . Vomiting,
- . Laboured breathing,
- . Nervous disorders, and convulsions,
- . In humans, may cause irritation, and rash, swellings and dermatitis on skin.

Health and Production Problems:

- . Berries and large quantities of the whole plant may cause poisoning.

Treatment:

- . See Doctor, or Vet.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Do not give cuttings to stock.
- . Cut out into disposable bags, use glyphosates.

Comments:

. Garden plant gone feral.

- . Climbing or ground cover plant with a woody stem, growing up to 30 metres high with the aid of aerial roots on the underside of the stems.
- . Dark, glossy, evergreen, alternate, triangular leaves, with three to five lobes, showing veins, sometimes variegated.

- . Flowers are yellow-green, with five petals, star-shaped, and about five cms long, in terminal, umbrella-shaped clusters.
- . In autumn the plant produces clusters of bitter, black, berries, which ripen the following year.
- . All parts can be toxic, especially the berries, the sap is a skin irritant.
- . Juvenile shoots root easily, but do not flower until mature.
- . Allelopathic to other plants.



Picture: *Hedera helix*

Helen Simmonds. Calga NSW.

Further Reading:

- . Blood. Environmental Weeds for SE Australia. CRC Weed Management Systems. 2003.
- . Magic and Medicine of Plants. RD. 1994,
- . Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004