**Heliotropium europaeum**

**Common name:**
Common heliotrope,

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Seldom eaten.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Moderate toxicity.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Toxic to sheep, cattle and horses.

**Poisonous Principle:**
Pyrrolizidine alkaloids.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
. Chronic weight loss,
. Acute jaundice,
. Photosensitization.

*Health and Production Problems;*
. Liver damage, and reduced productivity.
. Accumulated copper in the liver can kill the animal.
. Upsets of the CNS.

**Treatment;**
. Remove animals from the pasture.
. Molybdenum drench may help.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. Regrowth is by seed and root sections.
. Plants may be killed by frost.
. Use herbicide in the fallow season, and crop rotation of at least three or four years.
. Biological control agents are being tested.

**Comments:**
. A downy-covered spring to summer growing annual,
. Leaves are long to oval, grayish upper surface, and paler below.
. Flowers are small and white, on a coiled spike, in rows, which unravel as the flower matures.
. Fruits are spotted and wrinkled nutlets.
. This plant grows prolifically after summer rains.
. “Yellows”, photosensitization, and red urine are common in livestock eating this plant.
. The effect is cumulative, and may take a year or so to develop symptoms.

![Heliotropium europaeum](weedman.horsham.net.au)

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