

## ***Kalmia augustifolia***

### **Common name:**

Sheep laurel, Lambkill,

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Moderate.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

High.

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

All livestock.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

- . Glycosides,
- . Unknown others.

### **Effects:**

#### *Signs and Symptoms:*

- . Nausea, vomiting,
- . Watery eyes and nose,
- . Difficult respiration,
- . Convulsions, low blood pressure, paralysis.

#### *Health and Production Problems:*

- . The animal may recover, or die.

#### *Treatment:*

- . See Vet or Doctor.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Prevent all animals gaining access to this plant.
- . Herbicides, cultivate, and dispose.

### **Comments:**

- . Garden escapee.
- . An erect, evergreen, low growing, open crowned, sprawling shrub.
- . Leaves are dull green, opposite or in threes, oval, pointed and leathery; blue green above and paler below.
- . Flowers, purple to pink, cup-shaped, in little clusters on the axils of the previous years growth, spring to summer flowering.

- . Fruit is a 5-sectioned woody capsule with wings, containing many seeds.
- . All parts, especially the leaves, flowers and pollen are very toxic.
- . Even the honey is toxic to humans.
- . Similar spp, *K. latifolia*, mountain laurel or calico bush, is also very toxic.
- . Native to N America, where it was used , historically, (locally) to commit suicide.



Picture: *Kalmia augustifolia*  
cnr.vt.edu.dendro

### **Reference:**

- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1983.
- . Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004.