

Lamium amplexicaule

Common name:

Deadnettle, Henbit,

Palatability to Livestock:

Moderate.

Toxicity to Goats:

Unknown.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Sheep, probably cattle and horses.

Poisonous Principle:

Unknown.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Staggers after exercise,
- . Stiffness of hind limbs,
- . Rapid shallow breathing,
- . Shivering and trembling.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Avoid stress of driving.

Treatment;

- . Remove stock to safer pasture.
- . Be aware of potential stock problems.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Dig out, use herbicides.

Comments:

- . Annual slender hairy herb, low growing, with erect stems, square in cross section.
- . Leaves are in opposite pairs, roughly circular and lobed, either short stalked, or clasping the stem, with scalloped edges.
- . Small purple or pale pink, flowers, with a hooded upper lip, growing in clusters, among the upper leaves. No stalks on the flowers.
(NB *Stachys arvensis* has stalks on the flowers)

- . Fruits, a cluster of four small angled nutlets.
- . Grows in winter and early spring.
- . Native to Europe and Asia, found all over Australia, as a weed of disturbed ground, and occasionally in winter cereal crop.
- . Most poisonings occur after grazing cereal stubble containing deadnettle in the mature stage.
- . A member of the mint family.



Picture: *Lamium amplexicaule*
Weed Control in Lucerne, cover

Further Reading:

- . Cunningham, Mulham, Milthorpe and Leigh. Plants of Western NSW. 1999
- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981
- . McBarron. Poisonous Plants. Handbook. 1983
- . Roth. Weeds, Friend or Foe. 2001