

## *Lathyrus odoratus*

### **Common name:**

Sweet pea,

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Not known to be eaten.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Moderate risk.

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

Toxic to all livestock species.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

Cyano-amino acids.

### **Effects:**

*Signs and symptoms;*

- . Chronic, irreversible, nervous paralysis of the hind legs, or
- . Chronic irreversible skeletal deformations.

*Health and Production Problems;*

- . Affected animals progressively get worse, and eventually die.
- . Be aware of potential stock problems.

*Treatment;*

Nil.

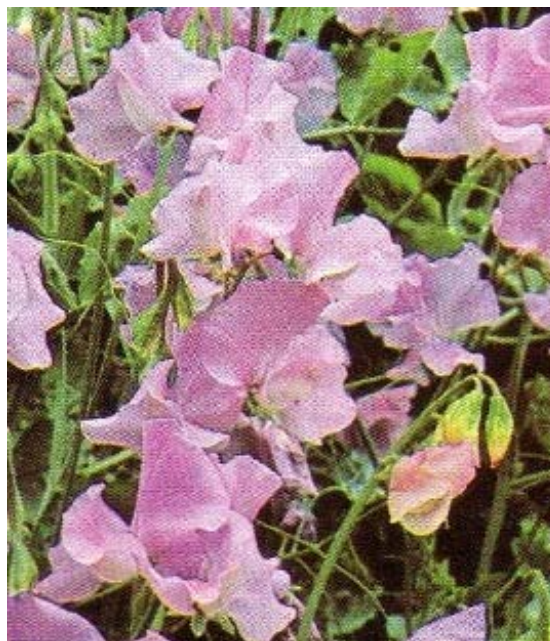
### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Do not feed these clippings to any livestock.
- . Weed out into disposable bags.

### **Comments:**

- . A garden plant.
- . There are 130 species, all with pea like flowers.
- . All species are stock poisons, the seeds in particular. They must be processed.
- . Seeds contain a pathogen of human disease, "lathyrism".
- . *L. odoratus* Sweet pea, seeds contain cyano-amino acids, causing abnormalities in animals, and is a stock poison.

- . If humans eat the seeds, they will cause slow pulse, depression, paralysis, and convulsions.
- . A scrambling, climbing, annual herb, with angular stems, growing to 2m high.
- . Leaves are divided into opposite, lance-shaped, hairy leaflets, the terminal leaflet is replaced with one or more tendrils, to enable it to climb.
- . Flowers come in a range of colours, pea-shaped and in clusters.
- . Flowers may be highly scented, occurring in late spring to summer.
- . Pods are hairy, turning brown with age, and splitting along the edge, to expose the seeds.
- . All parts may be toxic, esp seeds.



Picture: *Lathyrus odoratus*

### **Further Reading:**

- . Copeland. Poisonous Plants in Your Garden. 1977.
- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981.
- . Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004.
- . Wilson. Some Plants are Poisonous. 1997.