Marsilea drummondii

Common name:

Nardoo

Palatability to Livestock:

Seldom eaten.

Toxicity to Goats:

Moderate risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Toxic to cattle, sheep, horses and pigs.

Poisonous Principle:

- . Thiaminase,
- . Norsequiterpine glucocides.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Depression and confusion,
- . Apparent blindness and head pressing,
- . Anaemic condition,
- . Sudden collapse, and laboured respiration,
- . Small haemmorhages.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Chronic anaemia,
- . Ill-thrift and maybe death.

Treatment;

. Thiamine by injection, see Vet. Be aware of potential stock problems.

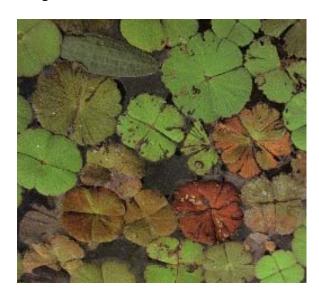
Integrated Control Strategy:

. After floods, remove stock to nardoo free areas when other fodder is spent. Young green growth seems more toxic than dried off plant.

Comments:

- . A water fern, or herb, with a short creeping rhizome, leaves have a slender stalk tipped with four wedge-shaped leaflets, that float on the surface, or spread on dry land and look like a four leaf clover.
- . Most species are hairy.

- . Fruits on stalks contain spores.
- . Found mainly in inland areas, in depressions or river flats subject to flooding.
- . Different species are found in all mainland states.
- . Toxin levels are greatest in summer, and lowest in winter.
- . Often grazed without ill effect, but if they are the only plants available, there will be overdosing and stock losses.
- . Mainly sheep and horses are affected.
- . Plant toxins affect the brain and nervous system, similar to rock fern.
- . Good fodder plant under normal conditions,
- high in fibre and tannins.



Picture: Marsilea drummondii

Further Readcing:

- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981.
- . Dowling and McKenzie. Poisonous Plants. 1993
- . Henry, Hall, Jordan, Milson, Schefe and Silcock. Pasture Plants in Southern Inland Queensland. 1995
- . Lamp and Collett.

Field Guide to Weeds in Australia. 1979.

- . McBarron, Poisonous Plants, Handbook, 1983.
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats 2000.

Information included in this Info Sheet was obtained from the source documents, and no responsibility will be accepted by the compiler.