

***Melianthus comosus* spp**

Common name:

Tufted honeyflower, Cape honeyflower,

Palatability to Livestock:

Not known to be eaten.

Toxicity to Goats:

Low risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Potentially toxic to all animal species.

Poisonous Principle:

. Cardiac glycosides.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Loss of appetite, cyanosis, tympanites,
- . Depression, diarrhoea,
- . Slow irregular heart beat, eventually heart block.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Rapid death, in many cases.
- . All parts are toxic.

Treatment;

Be aware of potential stock problems.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Grub out and burn,
- . Declared “Noxious” in Victoria.
- . Plough, rake and cultivate.
- . Use herbicides.

Comments:

- . Garden plant gone feral.
- . A densely branched, erect, evergreen, shrub about 2 metres high, and 3 m across, with a foul smell.
- . Branches are large, hollow and irregular in shape, and hairy.
- . Leaves are crowded in tufts towards ends of branches, pinnate with 9- 13 leaflets.

. Leaves large, waxy and bright green, margins saw toothed, may have tiny star-shaped hairs on upper surface, with an unpleasant smell when crushed.

. Flowers in racemes on stalks, drooping at maturity, long, nodding dense spikes, reddish brown, foul smelling, in late winter to autumn.

. Inflated, angled, papery pods with shiny black seeds.

. Roots are creeping, suckering, and toxic.

. Reproduces by seeds and suckers, forms dense stands; regrows from rhizomes if cut down.

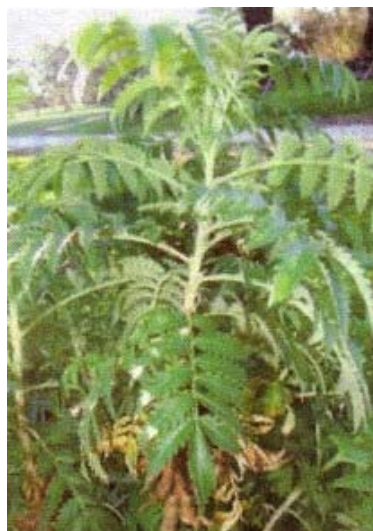
. Found SA and Victoria on degraded pasture.

. Honey may be toxic.

. Native of S Africa.

. Now found in all states in Australia, on roadsides, waste places, dunes and bushland.

. Tolerates most conditions.



Picture: *Melianthus spp* dpi,vic.gov.au

References;

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