

## *Parietaria judaica*

### **Common name:**

Pelletory, Asthma weed, Sticky weed,

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Unknown.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Not known, unlikely.

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

Humans.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

Pollen, unknown toxins.

### **Effects:**

*Signs and symptoms;*

- . Causes asthma in susceptible humans.
- . Allergic rhinitis, conjunctivitis,
- . Skin reactions.

*Health and Production Problems;*

- . Be aware of human health problems.

*Treatment;*

- . See Doctor or Vet.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . A garden herb and escapee.
- . Hand removal is the best method, but wear gloves and face mask.
- . Pull out, mow, slash, burn.
- . Topdress, and sow to vigorous pasture.
- . Glyphosate to actively growing plants prior to seeding. Repeat applications may be necessary.
- . Declared “Noxious” in NSW.

### **Comments:**

- . A woody, spreading, perennial herb, growing to 80cm high.
- . Hairs cling to clothes and can cause severe skin reactions upon contact with the hairs.
- . The stems are reddish.

- . Pollen can cause severe rhinitis, asthma, conjunctivitis and hayfever in humans.
- . Leaves are alternate, shape is variable between plants, usually wedge shaped to oval, both surfaces distinctly hairy, especially along veins, glossy and entire.
- . The midrib is divided, dull green and sticky to touch, covered in fine hairs.
- . Stems erect, densely covered in hooked hairs, red tinged, usually much branched, square in cross section.
- . Masses of insignificant flowers, green to brown, in small clusters in the axils of upper leaves, summer flowering.
- . Roots are woody, rootstock has fibrous laterals.
- . Seeds explode when ripe, spread is by seed and severed root pieces.
- . Germination is usually in autumn, or after heavy rain, fresh disturbance stimulates germination, extremely tolerant of desiccation.
- . The plant thrives in crevices and rock walls.
- . Found in all states.
- . Native to the Mediterranean area.



Picture: *Parietaria judaica* lanecove.nsw.gov.au

### **Further Reading:**

- . Blood. Environmental Weeds. Guide for SE Australia. CRC Weed Management Systems. 2003.
- . Cherry. Fact Sheet. Central Northern CC.1997.
- . Parsons and Cuthbertson. Noxious Weeds of Australia. 2001.
- . Shepherd, Pretty but Poisonous. 2004.