

Centaurea solstitialis

Common name:

St Barnaby's thistle, Yellow cockspur,

Palatability to Livestock:

Occasionally eaten.

Toxicity to Goats:

Not known to be toxic.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Maybe toxic to horses.

Poisonous Principle:

Maybe sesquiterpenes.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Twitching lips,
- . Drowsy,
- . Difficulty in eating.
- . "Chewings Disease", a nervous disease in horses causing brain damage.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Affected horses may starve to death, if assistance is not attempted.

Treatment;

- . Do not allow horses unlimited access to this plant in bad times.

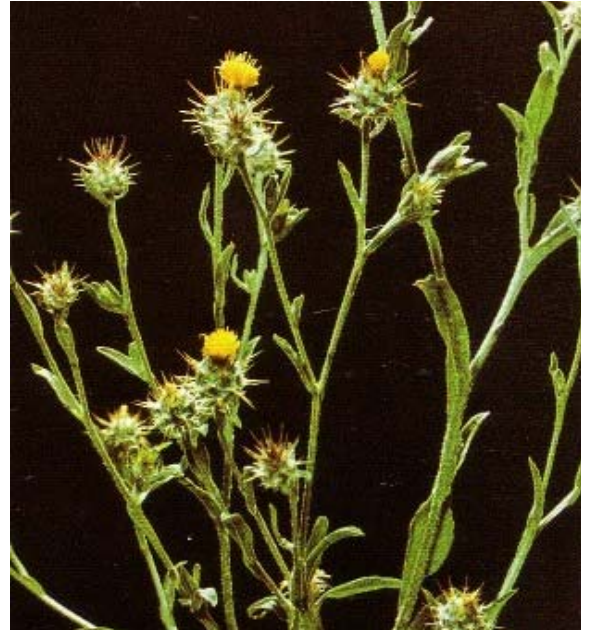
Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Cultivate, fertilise, and sow to good pasture.
- . Declared "Noxious" in Victoria and South Australia.

Comments:

- . A stiff, erect, rather woolly annual, growing to 30 or more cms high.
- . Many branched stems, with long wings, caused by drooping leaf blades.
- . Often yellowish in the upper areas when the plant ages.
- . Leaves are woolly-grey, and the bottom leaves are deeply lobed.

- . Single thistle-like yellow flowers, surrounded by long yellow spines, with more spines around the base.
- . Flowers from October to March.



Picture: *Centaurea solstitialis* CRC WW 9

Further Reading:

- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981
- . Lamp and Collett. A Field Guide to Weeds in Australia. 1976
- . McBarron. Poisonous Plants, Handbook.. 1983