

Panicum spp

Common name:

Panic grasses

Palatability to Livestock:

Moderate.

Toxicity to Goats:

Low risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Sheep, probably other grazing stock.

Poisonous Principle:

Unknown.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Syndrome called “Yellow Bighead”
- . Photosensitization.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Swellings over face and ears,
- . Scalding and ulceration.

Treatment;

- . Remove stock to shady areas.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Be aware of potential stock problems.

Comments:

- . Annual or perennial grasses, mainly in NSW and Queensland.
- . Tufted, short to medium height, perennial or annual grasses.
- . Leaf blades usually broad, with hairy nodes on the stems, sometimes a sprawling habit.
- . Single seeded grasses with open seed-heads, giving rise to straw like tumbleweeds.
- . Makes rapid growth in times of heat and moisture, and dries off quickly.
- . In excess, several varieties cause sunburn to livestock.

- . Found all over Australia, in one variety or another.
- . Some are important fodder grasses.
- . Some spp have given, at times, positive tests for HCN, nitrates and/or oxalates, also photosensitization.



Picture: (Guinea grass, Roundup)

Further Reding:

- . Auld and Medd. Weeds. 1992.
- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981
- . McBarron. Poisonous Plants, Handbook.1983.