

Senecio jacobaea

Common name:

Ragwort, St James wort,

Palatability to Livestock:

Low.

Toxicity to Goats:

Moderate risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Toxic to horses, pigs, cattle and sheep.

Poisonous Principle:

Pyrrolizidine alkaloids.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Chronic weight loss, dullness, loss of appetite, staggering, excitability,
- . Acute jaundice,
- . Maybe photosensitization.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Excess in the diet may lead to liver damage.
- . Loss of long term production.
- . Damaged livers in some ruminants, may lead to an accumulation of copper, which when released will kill the animal.

Treatment;

- . Be aware of potential stock problems.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Spray graze, with an increased stocking rate.
- . Will produce new growth from the cut crown, or small pieces left in the soil.
- . Biological controls are being used.
- . A declared "Noxious" weed in Tasmania, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia.

Comments:

- . A biennial or short lived perennial herb, with a thick creeping rootstock.
- . The stems are erect.
- . Leaves are green, paler on the lower surface, and deeply dissected into narrow lobes.
- . Flowerheads are in broad bunches at the top of the stems, yellow daisy type with twelve petals,
- . Native of Europe.
- . Found in NSW, Victoria, Tasmania, SA, and parts of WA.
- . Sheep and goats are less susceptible than cattle.



Picture: *Senecio jacobaea* Brushhoff

Further Reading:

- . AGDEX 647.
- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981
- . Lamp and Collett. Field Guide to Weeds in Australia. 1979.
- . Parsons and Cuthbertson. Noxious Weeds of Australia. 2001
- . Roth. Weeds. Friend or Foe. 2001
- . Simmonds Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000.