

Solanum cinereum

Common name:

Narrawa burr.

Palatability to Livestock:

Occasionally eaten.

Toxicity to Goats:

Moderate risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Toxic to sheep cattle, and maybe horses.

Poisonous Principle:

Unknown, solanum alkaloids.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Weight loss,
- . Wide-based stance, limb weakness,
- . Mild head tremors,
- . Incoordination, tendency to fall over,
- . Salivation, perspiration,
- . Diarrhoea, respiration problems.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Chronic nervous disorder of the brain.
- . Animals are permanently affected.

Treatment;

- . None.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Weed out into disposable bags.
- . Herbicides, Group B.

Comments:

- . A small prickly shrub with many branches, growing to about a metre high.
- . Stems are grey-green, with orange to yellow spines up to a cm long.
- . Soft leaves, grey-green on the lower surface, green and glossy on the upper surface, also with fine soft spines above and below.
- . Leaf margins are deeply lobed, almost triangular indents.

. Flowers are bluish purple, in small groups on stalks in the forks of the leaves, the calyx also has spines.

. Berries are round and pale yellow when ripe, drying to brown.

. Growing in NSW and SA also in southern Queensland, central and south coast of NSW, particularly in higher rainfall areas.

. Fresh or dried fruits may be fatal to sheep.

. Prevent stock having access over a long period.

. The symptoms are irreversible.



Picture: *Solanum cinereum*

Further Reading:

- . Cunningham, Mulham, Milthope, and Leigh. Plants of Western NSW. 1999.
- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981.
- . Harden. Flora of NSW. 1992.
- . McKenzie R. Veterinary Clinical Toxicology. 2000
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000