

***Solanum aviculare***  
***Solanum laciniatum*,**

**Common name:**

Kangaroo apple,

**Palatability:**

Occasionally eaten.

**Toxicity to Goats:**

Low risk.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**

Potentially toxic to sheep and cattle.

**Poisonous Principle:**

Steroidal alkaloid glucocides, solasodine.

**Effects:**

*Signs and symptoms;*

- . Burning of mouth,
- . Severe diarrhoea,
- . Deep nervous depression,
- . Paralysis and gastro-intestinal irritation.

*Health and Production Problems;*

- . Weight loss.
- . Death, maybe due to heart failure after a week of illness.

*Treatment;*

See Vet.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Control achieved by pasture management.

**Comments:**

- . A short lived perennial, fast growing small shrub, with an open habit, similar to *S. lactinatum*, the southern spp.
- . On young plants, leaves are deeply divided into narrow segments. Older plants have leaves with irregular lobes.
- . Leaves are long and dark green, stalks often purplish.

- . Flowers are in bunches in forks of leaves, blue to purple, star-shaped, five cms across, spring to summer flowering.
- . The fruits hang down, bright orange or yellow to red when ripe, with many seeds in a soft pulp in an oval capsule. They are sickly sweet with a bitter aftertaste.
- . Found in bushland and waste ground, in sub-tropical and temperate regions of Australia.
- . A native to Australia and the Pacific region.
- . All parts are toxic, except the burst ripe berries.
- . There are two similar *species*, one in southern regions the other in the tropics, found on moist well-drained soils.
- . In Europe, this plant is farmed to produce solanine for contraceptive pills.



Picture *Solanum aviculare*

**References;**

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Field Guide to Weeds in Australia. 1979.
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