

Solanum esuriale,

Common name:

Quena, Potato weed, Wild tomato,

Palatability to Livestock:

Seldom eaten.

Toxicity to Goats:

Low risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Pigs, cattle, sheep.

Poisonous Principle:

Solanine type toxin.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Gastroenteritis,
- . Fast noisy heart beat,
- . Humped back,
- . Stress.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Animals will die if driven or stressed.

Treatment;

None, rest is the only cure.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Be aware of potential stock problems.

Comments:

- . A perennial, growing to about 30 cm high, occasionally bushy, with short creeping roots.
- . One or more erect branched stems.
- . Leaves and stems, grey/yellow/green, hairy, seldom has prickles, only on base of stems.
- . Leaves long and thin, velvety, with a rounded tip.
- . Mainly blue/purple flowers on long stems, star-shaped, five petals, with yellow centres, occurring most of the year.
- . Berry is round and yellow, fleshy, with two cells.

- . Growth is in warmer months.
- . Found in all mainland states, especially in inland areas.
- . A pioneer weed after drought or fire.
- . Suspected of causing “humpyback”, in wethers and rams, in good condition and full wool, when being mustered during summer heat, circumstantial evidence only.
- . Forced movement usually kills the animals; they should be left to rest, and shorn in cooler conditions.



Picture: *Solanum esuriale*

Further Reading:

- . Dowling and McKenzie. Poisonous Plants. Qld. 1993.
- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981.
- . Henry, Hall, Jordan, Milson, Sclafe and Silcock. Pasture Plants of Southern Inland Qld. 1995
- . McBarron. Poisonous Plants, Handbook. 1983.