

Paterson's Curse

Echium Plantagineum

Paterson's Curse is an erect low growing annual herbaceous plant. Paterson's Curse germinates in autumn, forming rosettes. As the plant grows the stems lengthen and branch, in early Spring small purple flowers develop.

Paterson's Curse is poisonous to stock with prolonged grazing leading to liver damage. Paterson's curse is particularly toxic to horses, potentially causing death in as little as a few weeks. In addition to being toxic to animals, Paterson's curse has the ability to become rapidly established and smother germinating pasture as the rosettes spread and thicken.

For more information and advice on identification and control contact the Local Land Services, Yass Valley Council Biosecurity Weeds Officer or your local agronomist.



Capeweed

Arctotheca calendula

Capeweed is a low growing annual winter weed. It has deeply lobed green leaves and distinctive yellow daisy-like flowers. Capeweed is a prolific seeding plant and dominates paddocks through out competing and smothering beneficial grasses and plants at the seedling stage.

Capeweed can be poisonous to stock if digested in high quantities. Chemical control is very effective on capeweed when applied pre-flowering.

For more information and advice on identification and control please visit the Local Land Services, Yass Valley Council Biosecurity Weeds Officer or your local agronomist.



Erodium

Erodium Cicutarium

Erodium, also known as Crows Foot or Common Stork Bill, is an annual herbaceous weed of pasture and crops. Seedlings develop a clustered rosette similar to that of Capeweed, before developing reddish stems and growing more upright. Erodium can out compete beneficial grasses and plants at the seedling stage due to the thick leaf cover of the rosette and the ability to grow up and over seedling grasses and smother them out.

Although Erodium is palatable, in higher quantities it can be toxic causing photosensitivity in sheep. The spiked seeds can also injure stock, particularly when caught in the eyes and between the toes.

Hormone herbicides provide good control of young plants. Older plants are harder to control and relatively tolerant to glyphosate.

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Thistles

Saffron, Slender, Variegated, Spear/Black, Scotch Artichoke

Thistles are vigorous competitors. The dense, flattened rosette leaves smother desirable pasture species seedlings in spring reducing their early growth. Dense stands of mature thistles create barriers that hinder livestock movement. Thistles are prolific seeders and can spread quickly if not controlled.

Although susceptible to herbicide control as rosettes, once established thistles are difficult and expensive to control. Dense thistle populations can reduce property values.



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