

# Hemp Dogbane

Apocynum cannabinum

**Common Names:** Dogbane, Indian physic, American hemp, rheumatism

**Species Affected:** Sheep, Cattle

**Description:**

It is a perennial that grows between 3 and 6 feet tall. It has opposite leaves with smooth edges, and hair on the underside. The flowers are greenish white turning to 2 pods when seeding out. It has a reddish stem that produces sap.

**Toxin:** Cardiac glycosides

**Growing Location and Timing:**

It begins growing in late spring to early summer, and can be found in pastures, meadows, near waterways, and in gravelly or sandy fields.

**Affects on Livestock:**

Death can occur 6 to 12 hours after consumption. The lethal dose is about 0.5 gm/kg of body weight. It has been reported that 15 gm of green foliage has caused death in some cattle.

**Signs and Symptoms:**

Symptoms can range from change in heartrate, dilated pupils, vomiting, bluing of the mucous membrane, body weakness, convulsions, and coma.

**Preventative Measures:**

Make sure to check the area where livestock are ranging, remove livestock from area where Hemp Dogbane is present.

