

Baccharis halimifolia

Common name:

Goundsel bush

Palatability to Livestock:

High at all stages.

Toxicity to Goats:

Low risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Potentially toxic to sheep and cattle.

Poisonous Principle:

Unknown.

Effects:

Signs and Symptoms;

. A locomotor disturbance and associated recumbency.

Health and Production Problems;

Death is possible.

Treatment;

Be aware of potential stock problems.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Goats will preferentially graze this weed to extinction.
- . Bulldoze and burn.
- . Biological control agents are being tested.
- . Glyphosate, or 2,4-D, to actively growing plants, but not in winter, or periods of summer drought, or stress to vegetation.
- . Declared "Noxious" in SE Queensland and the north coast of NSW.

Comments:

- . Rarely eaten in sufficient quantity to cause any problems. Goats are not affected.
- . A perennial, densely branched shrub, growing up to 7 metres high, common on wasteland and degraded pastures.

. Alternate wedge shaped leaves, dull green, sometimes silvery, that have large teeth at the tips.

. Plants of two years old or more, flower in April or May, and can be easily identified from the air. Male and female flowers are on separate bushes.

. Seeds give the tree a fluffy appearance in autumn.

. Native to south eastern USA, and West Indies.

. Widespread in the central and north coast of NSW, and SE Queensland,

. Forms dense thickets; very invasive, but will not grow under heavy tree cover.

. Grows near the sea, often behind mangroves, also in swampy areas.

. Pollen may cause hayfever to humans.

. Cattle rarely eat this plant, therefore there are few cases of poisoning.

. Plant reduces carrying capacity of the land.



Picture: *Baccharis halimifolia*

Weeds of Hunter and Central Coast. NSW Ag

Further Reading:

- . AGFACTS. 647. NSW Dept AG
- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981
- . Huggins and Lucy
Weeds of Southern Queensland. 1997.
- . Parsons and Cuthbertson
Noxious Weeds of Australia. 2001
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000