

Cassia artemisioides

Common name:

Silver cassia, Puntly bush,
Dense cassia,

Palatability to Livestock:

May be unpalatable, but eaten in times of food shortage.

Immature pods and seeds are the most toxic.

Toxicity to Goats:

Moderate risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Toxic to all livestock species.

Poisonous Principle:

Antraquinone glycosides and an unidentified toxin.

Effects:

Signs and Symptoms;

- . Diarrhoea initially.
- . Difficulty and reluctance to walk, and a stiff gait.
- . Dark brown or red urine.
- . Recumbency, increased heart rate.
- . Difficulty in breathing.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Causes damage to the muscles of the skeleton and the heart.
- . Can give rise to loss of appetite and weight loss.
- . Can cause rapid death in some cases.

Treatment;

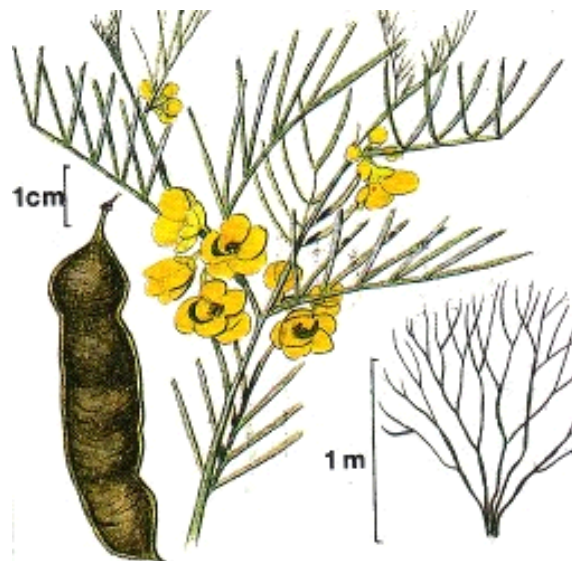
- . Be aware of potential stock problems.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Basal bark or cut stump treatment with a selective herbicide.

Comments:

- . Plants bearing seed pods are the most poisonous.
- . An upright, spreading, silvery shrub, up to three metres high.
- . The leaves are very variable, whitish to grey-green; some leaflets are very short-lived, leaving bare petioles.
- . Bright yellow flowers grow in short racemes in the leaf axils, as long as new growth is being produced; flowering is mainly in winter and spring.
- . This is an important weed of rangeland in northern NSW, and forms dense stands. It prefers a sunny site with well drained soil, is quick growing but short lived, and reproduces by seed.
- . This plant contains high levels of protein and phosphorus, but little fibre.
- . This plant has now become a problem woody weed in the region. It is browsed at times by sheep, but is not palatable to cattle.



Picture: NSW Dept Ag poster

Further Reading:

- . Auld and Medd. Weeds. 1992
- . Elliot and Jones. Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants. 1997
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000
- . Wilson. Some Plants are Poisonous. 1997