

Cassia barclayana

Common name:

Pepper-leaved senna,

Palatability to Livestock:

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

Immature pods and seeds seem to be the most palatable.

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;

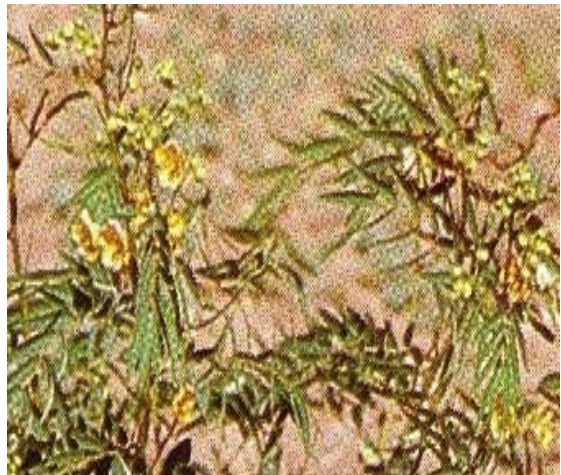
Be aware of potential stock problems.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Slash or use selective herbicides, try glyphosates.
- . Treat regrowth as necessary.
- . Use goats, with caution.

Comments:

- . A perennial, semi-erect shrub, up to about a metre high.
- . The leaves are about 10cms long, with 4 – 7 pairs of leaflets, up to 45cms long, with short stalks.
- . The flowers are bright yellow, like buttercups, in short racemes, in spring to autumn.
- . The pods are about finger length, curved and brown, opening at maturity.
- . This is a weedy type of plant found on the inland plains districts, often in colonies or in spreading patches.
- . A useful plant for apiarists.



Picture: *Cassia barclayana*

Further Reading:

- . Huggins and Lucy. Weeds of Southern Qld. 1997
- . Lazarides, Cowley and Hohnen. CSIRO Handbook of Australian Weeds. 1997
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000