

***Senna occidentalis***  
***Cassia occidentalis***

**Common name:**

Coffee Senna, Arsenic Bush, Ant Bush

**Palatability to Livestock:**

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

**Toxicity to Goats:**

Low risk.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**

Sheep and cattle – and dogs, eating poisoned meat.

**Poisonous Principle:**

Unknown.

**Effects:**

*Signs and symptoms;*

- . Muscular incoordination, stumbling gait,
- . Collapse and death,
- . Dark or red urine,
- . At autopsy, degeneration of skeletal muscles,
- . Diarrhoea, difficult breathing.

*Health and Production Problems;*

- . Cattle should not be put in situations where this plant is plentiful and other feed is scarce.
- . Grain contaminated with seeds should not be given to livestock or poultry.

*Treatment;*

- . Be aware of potential stock problems.
- . Selenium and Vitamin E exacerbate the problem.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Be aware of potential stock problems.
- . Not feasible.

**Comments:**

- . A shrubby, annual or short lived perennial.
- . The stems are erect, woody, with few branches.
- . Leaves are pale green, and pinnate, 4-5 pairs of pointed, ovate, leaflets widely spaced along a common stalk which has a depressed knob-like dark gland on the upper side near the base.
- . Flowers are yellow and cup-shaped, in open bunches on a short common stalk, in the forks of the upper leaves.
- . Flowers in summer, short sprays terminating the branches, yellow and cup-shaped, two cm in diameter.
- . Pods are long, plump, slightly flattened, dark brown, with longitudinal stripes along the edge.
- . Found in Qld, NSW, NT, WA, originating in the Americas.
- . The condition of animals, and state of pasture, influence the incidence of poisoning,
- . Seeds are probably the most toxic parts,



Picture: *Cassia occidentalis*

- . Dowling and McKenzie.. Poisonous Plants. 1993.
- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981
- . McKenzie. Veterinary Clinical Toxicology. 2000.