

Cassinia arcuata

Common name:

Sifton bush, Bidy bush, Cassinia, Chinese scrub,

Palatability to Livestock:

Moderate at all stages.

Toxicity to Goats:

Not known to be toxic.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Suspected of poisoning lambs.

Poisonous Principle:

Unknown.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

Loss of co-ordination in the hind-quarters.

Health and Production Problems;

Be aware of potential stock problems.

Treatment;

Nil.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Difficult to eradicate, mechanical removal then a period of fallow to control seedlings, then fertilise and sow to suitable pasture.
- . Remove small plants before they flower.
- . Slash and burn, take care to avoid punctures from stumps.
- . Try Grazon DS® or Roundup®
- . A biological control agent is being tested.

Comments:

- . A native perennial plant, not palatable to most animals, growing on poor soil, found mainly in southern NSW.
- . An open shrub 1 – 2 metres high, smelling of curry or coffee when bruised.
- . Downy branches, bark is dark grey-brown and furrowed.

- . The leaves are very narrow and thin, with rolled under edges.
- . Flower heads are pale brown with several flowers, in short panicles, in spring – autumn.
- . Seeds are tiny, with bristles at one end.
- . This plant is a fire hazard, and a refuge for rabbits.
- . Usually found as scattered plants, or small dense clumps.
- . Goats do not favour sifton bush, but they do eat the green leaves and can cause substantial damage to mature plants. Access to good pasture is essential at high stocking rates.
- . Young plants and seedlings will also be eaten.
- . Meat and cashmere goats are most successful at controlling sifton bush, due to their feeding habits and light fleeces.
- . The name originates from the gold digging days, when it was used as a thatch for roofs by the Chinese miners and early settlers.



Picture: *Cassinia arcuata* Roundup.

Further Reading:

- . Agfacts. 643. Sifton Bush.
- . Cunningham, Mulham, Milthorpe, Leigh. Plants of Western NSW. 1999
- . Holst. Goats and Their Complementary Role in Managing Pastures. 1991.
- . Parsons and Cuthbertson. Noxious Weeds of Australia 2001
- . Roundup Herbicides.