

## *Chamaecytisus proliferus*

### **Common name:**

Lucerne tree, Tagasaste

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

High at all stages.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Not known to be toxic.

### **Toxicity to Other Species:**

Seeds may be toxic to pregnant grazing stock.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

- . Contains the alkaloid, lupinidine.
- . Maybe quinolizidine.

### **Effects:**

#### *Signs and Symptoms;*

- . Toxins act on the parasympathetic nervous system.
- . Narrows the blood vessels of the intestine.
- . Raises blood pressure, and affects the heart.

#### *Health and Production Problems;*

- . Seeds are poisonous, (Blood)

#### *Treatment;*

Nil. See Vet.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Use goats.
- . Very invasive in favorable conditions.
- . Deny access to pregnant stock.

### **Comments:**

- . A fast growing shrub or small tree, with long, drooping, hoary branches, often planted for stock forage, growing up to 4 metres high.
- . Provides shade and shelter, erosion control, and green firebreaks; palatable and protein rich.
- . These trees need regular pruning.
- . Leaves are dark green, alternate, on short stalks, with three leaflets.

- . Flowers are white and pea-like, in clusters on short twigs, in late winter to spring.
- . Seeds are in flattened pods about 5cms long, but seeds need treatment before sowing.
- . Introduced as a hedge plant from the Canary Islands, but is now found in waste areas near habitation, in most parts of Australia.
- . Grows well in high rainfall areas in Tasmania, South Australia, Victoria and NSW.
- . A close relative of the "Broom" species.
- . Can be a minor environmental weed.



Picture: *Chamaecytisus proliferus* .floracyberia.net

### **Further Reading:**

- . Blood. Environmental Weeds. Field Guide for SE Australia. CRC Weed Management Systems. 2003
- . Cremer. Trees for Rural Australia. 1990
- . Lamp and Collett. Field Guide to Weeds in Australia. 1979
- . Cunningham, Mulham, Milthorpe, and Leigh, Plants of Western NSW. 1999
- . McKenzie R. Veterinary Clinical Toxicology. 2000
- . Sainty Abell and Jacobs. Burnam Burnam's Wild Things Around Sydney. 1989
- . Wilson. Some Plants are Poisonous. 1997