

## *Daphne spp*

### **Common name:**

Daphne

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Garden plant, do not feed to stock.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

High risk.

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

Toxic to all livestock species.

Toxic to humans and pets.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

. Coumarin in the leaves and berries.

. Daphnetin, a coumarin derivative.

### **Effects:**

*Signs and symptoms;*

- . Vomiting,
- . Diarrhoea,
- . Internal bleeding, lack of blood clotting,
- . Extreme weakness and depression,
- . Burning of the mouth and throat.

*Health and Production Problems;*

- . Rapid death.

*Treatment;*

- . Try emetics, salt and water, or demulcents such as milk, or egg white and water.
- . Activated charcoal.
- . Be aware of potential problems.
- . Deter children from eating fruits.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Prune out carefully into disposable bags.
- . Do not feed this plant to any livestock.

### **Comments:**

- . All parts of the plant are toxic, especially the berries and bark.

. Use gloves as this plant can cause a rash on the skin; sap is an irritant.

. Historically used in the treatment of venereal and scrofulous diseases.

. Evergreen shrubs, with narrow leaves.

. Flowers are sweetly scented, tubular, white to pink to reddish, in clusters.

. Succulent fruits, containing one large seed.



Picture: *Daphne* flower

### **Further Reading:**

- . Everist S. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981.
- . Cherry J. Fact Sheet. CN County Council, 1997.
- . McBarron. Medical and Veterinary Aspects of Plant Poisons. 1976.
- . Paterson. Herbs in the Garden. 1985.
- . Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004.