

## *Gelsemium sempervirens*

### **Common name:**

Yellow jasmine, Carolina Jessamine,  
Woodbine,

### **Palatability to livestock:**

Not known to be eaten.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

High risk.

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

Toxic to all livestock species.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

- . Strychnine-like indole alkaloids.
- . Gelseminine, gelsemic acid in roots.

### **Effects:**

#### *Signs and symptoms;*

- . Staggering, weakness, shivering,
- . Laboured breathing,
- . Darkening of the mucous membranes,
- . Double vision,
- . Paralysis and/or death.

#### *Health and Production Problems;*

- . Acts on the medulla oblongata, the respiratory centre of the brain causing respiratory failure.
- . Has a depressant effect on the spinal cord.
- . Symptoms start with nausea, can cause death within one hour.

#### *Treatment;*

See Vet or Doctor,

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Weed, and prune into disposable bags.
- . Garden plant.
- . Do not feed cuttings to any livestock.

### **Comments:**

- . Garden plant, all parts are toxic.
- . A woody, perennial, evergreen, twining climber, grown for its flowers and perfume.
- . Leaves are oval, dark green and glossy and grow in opposite pairs.
- . Stems have a milky juice.
- . Clusters of one to five, funnel-shaped flowers grow from the leaf axils, yellow and perfumed, in winter and spring.
- . Fruits have pods with two winged seeds.
- . A climber without tendrils.
- . Reproducing by seed, or cuttings.
- . All parts, including leaves, roots and nectar are toxic.



Picture *Gelsemium sempervirens*

### **Further Reading:**

- . Copeland. Poisonous Plants in Your Garden. 1997
- . McBarron. Medical and Veterinary Aspects of Plant Poisons. 1983.
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Potential Toxicity and Palatability of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000.
- . Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004.
- . Wilson. Some Plants are Poisonous. 1997.