

Laurel spp

Common name:

Bay tree,

Palatability to Livestock:

Moderate.

Toxicity to Goats:

Low risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Horses.

Poisonous Principle:

- . Cardiac glycosides in the leaves.
- . Laurostearine, lauric acid.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Nervous symptoms,
- . Heart attack.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Death.

Treatment;

- . Nil.
- . Be aware of potential stock problems.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Do not feed these clippings to any livestock.
- . Weed or prune into disposable bags.

Comments:

- . A garden plant.
- . An attractive tree, growing to 20 metres.
- . Very slow growth.
- . Leaves are glossy green, oval, with pointed tips, and are used in cooking when dried.
- . Tiny flowers are a creamy white appearing in the leaf axils.
- . Berries only occur on the female trees.
- . All laurels are toxic, except *L. nobilis*, bay tree. These leaves are dried and cooked before being eaten.



Pictures: *Laurel spp*



Picture: Wikipedia

Further Reading:

- . Kohnke. Feeding and Nutrition of Horses. 1997.
- . Mcvicar. New Book of Herbs. 2002.
- . Wilson. Some Plants are Poisonous. 1997.
- . Woodward. Australian Herbal. 1996.