

## *Lycium ferocissimum*

### **Common name:**

African boxthorn, Boxthorn,

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Moderate at all stages.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Low.

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

May be toxic to some livestock.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

- . Hyocyamine, and other alkaloids,
- . Atropine, alkaloids.

### **Effects:**

#### *Signs and symptoms;*

- . May produce narcotic symptoms,
- . Drowsy, dilated pupils, thirst,
- . Unconsciousness.

#### *Health and Production Problems;*

- . Be aware of potential livestock problems.

#### *Treatment;*

- . See Vet.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Dense thickets should be grazed by goats.
- . Chain out and burn.
- . Paint stumps with herbicide.
- . Spray when bushes are actively growing, prior to, or at flowering.
- . Adequate soil moisture should be available to ensure herbicide is taken up.
- . Declared “Noxious” in most states.

### **Comments:**

- . Shrub up to 4 metres high, with tangled long, rigid, branches, ending in stout spines.
- . Leaves are oval, in clusters, along branches and at base of spines, bright green slightly fleshy, rounded at the tip, sometimes deciduous in winter.

- . Flowers are pale lilac to white, single or in pairs, fragrant, usually in spring and summer, but maybe all year round.
- . Berries dull orange-red, shiny, round one cm in diameter.
- . Declared “Noxious” for all NSW.
- . Reproduction is by seeds and suckers from root fragments.
- . Growth is initially slow, but improves when the root system is developed.
- . Regenerates rapidly after fire, and when top growth is cut.
- . Native of S Africa, usually grown as a hedge plant, naturalized in all states.
- . Found in all States of Australia, under all conditions.



Picture: *Lycium ferocissimum* North East CC Poster

### **Further Reading:**

- . AGDEX 647
- . Blood. Environmental Weeds. Field Guide for SE Australia CRC Weed Development Systems 2003
- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981
- . Hussey, Keighery, Cousens, Dodd and Leigh. Western Weeds. 1997.
- . Huggins and Lucy. Weeds of Southern Queensland. 1997.
- . Landcare Note. Victoria.
- . Parsons and Cuthbertson. Noxious Weeds of Australia. 1992
- . Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004