

## ***Melia azedarach***

### **Common name:**

White cedar, Cape lilac, Neem tree,

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Moderate.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Low risk.

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

- . Potentially toxic to sheep, cattle and pigs,
- . Poultry, horses and children and dogs.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

- . Tetranortriterpenes (meliatoxins),
- . Alkaloids and glycosides,
- . Margosin, tannic acid, meliatoxins,
- . Unknown substances.

### **Effects:**

#### *Signs and symptoms;*

- . Excitement, followed by dullness,
- . Difficult breathing, slow heart rate,
- . Vomiting, diarrhoea, convulsions,
- . In humans, symptoms progress from nausea and spasms, to insensibility.

#### *Health and Production Problems;*

- . Milk taint from cut leaves.
- . Recovery over several days, or death within 48 hours.

#### *Treatment;*

- . None.
- . Be aware of potential stock problems.

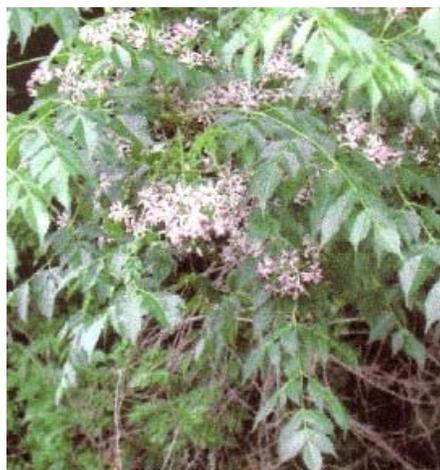
### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Dispose of cuttings carefully
- . Control achieved by grazing management.

### **Comments:**

- . A garden plant or escapee.
- . Large, deciduous tree, bark is dark grey, and fissured.

- . Leaves are large, bipinnate with numerous leaflets, bright green with toothed margins.
- . Lilac flowers in large panicles, in late spring, with 5 petals, and a fragrant perfume.
- . Fruits hang in open bunches, dull yellow, oval, in late summer.
- . Berries are toxic, often remaining on the tree after leaf fall.
- . Six to eight berries can be fatal to children.
- . Found from northern NSW to N Queensland, and to Kimberleys in WA.
- . Similar tree in S Africa.
- . Ripe fruits are more toxic than green leaves.



Picture *Melia azedarach* :wikipedia



Picture: *Melia spp* Helen Simmonds. Calga NSW.

### **Further Reading:**

- . Cherry. Fact Sheet. Central Northern CC. 1997.
- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981.
- . Dowling and McKenzie. Poisonous Plants. 1993
- . Kohnke. Feeding and Nutrition of Horses. 1998.
- . McBarron. Poisonous Plants, Handbook. 1983
- . Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004.
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000
- . Wilson Some Plants are Poisonous. 1997.