**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 insensitivity.

*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, bipinate 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.

Further Reading:
. Wilson Some Plants are Poisonous. 1997.

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