

## *Nerium oleander*

### **Common name:**

Oleander, Rose Bay, Rose Laurel,

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Not known to be eaten.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

High risk.

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

Toxic to all livestock species, poultry and humans.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

Cardenolide cardiac glycosides.

Found in all parts of the plant, especially the flowers.

### **Effects:**

#### *Signs and symptoms;*

- . Sweating, and loss of appetite,
- . Colic, diarrhoea,
- . Dilation of the pupils,
- . Irregular heart beat, fast or slow,
- . Vomiting, convulsions, muscle tremors,
- . Irregular respiration, breathing difficulty.

#### *Health and Production Problems;*

- . Affects the autonomic and central nervous system, myocardium and gastro-intestinal tract.
- . Death from heart or respiratory problems.

#### *Treatment;*

See Vet or Doctor.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Garden plant or escapee.
- . Dispose of cuttings carefully.
- . Do not burn! Fumes are toxic.
- . Grub out all of the root, or use weed mat.
- . Cut stump, with Glyphosate or Tordon®

### **Comments:**

- . Be aware, even the smoke is toxic.
- . In humans, vomiting, diarrhoea, dizziness, dilated pupils, heart irregularities, death from heart failure and respiratory paralysis.
- . Not recommended for “herbal teas”.
- . Exudes a thick white sap when damaged, which burns the mucous membranes of mouth and intestines.
- . Evergreen, thick leafy shrub, with glossy dark green leaves, growing 6 metres or more; most plants are pruned.
- . Strikes from cuttings and seeds.
- . Elongated pods, seeds with silky hairs.
- . Pink, red, or white flowers, with five petals, in clusters at end of branches, spring to autumn.
- . All stages of growth are toxic to birds.
- . Food plant for Australian Crow Butterfly; the butterfly is black and white, larvae orange black and grey.



Picture: *Nerium oleander* Helen Simmonds. Calga NSW

### **Further Reading:**

- . Cherry. Fact Sheet. Central North CC. 1997.
- . Covacevich, Davie and Pearn Toxic Plants and Animals. 1987.
- . Dowling and McKenzie. Poisonous Plants. 1993
- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981
- . Kohnke. Feeding and Nutrition of Horses. 1998.
- . McBarron. Poisonous Plants, Handbook. 1983.
- . Shephed. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004.
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000