

Parkinsonia aculeata

Common name:

Parkinsonia, Jerusalem thorn,

Palatability to Livestock:

Moderate.

Toxicity to Goats:

Low risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Potentially toxic to sheep and cattle.

Poisonous Principle:

Nitrates.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Respiratory distress,
- . Darkening of the gums.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Sometimes death, or recovery.

Treatment;

- . Be aware of potential health problems.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Mechanical removal, grub out, or bulldoze.
- . Basal bark, or cut-stump treatment, for mature trees.
- . Declared “Noxious” in South Australia and parts of Western Australia.

Comments:

- . A spiny branching tree or shrub, often forming a dense scrub.
- . Stems are crooked and drooping.
- . The long leaves have short stalks, with several leaflets.
- . Sharp spines protrude at the leaf base.
- . Clusters of flowers on long stalks are yellow and perfumed, growing in the leaf axils.
- . Sharp, pointed, seed pods are light brown, with constrictions between the seed.

- . Seeds germinate after rain, into a single thorny stem.
- . Spread is by seed, usually during floods.
- . Flowering is after several years growth, but can be at any time, when mature.
- . A native of Central America, was imported into Australia as a fodder plant.
- . Found in WA, NT, Queensland, and northern NSW.
- . Sheep will eat the leaves, but cattle do not fancy this plant.



Picture: *Parkinsonia aculeata*
agric.wa.gov.au

Further Reading:

- . Agdex 647.
- . Harden. Flora of NSW. 1990.
- . Parsons and Cuthbertson. Noxious Weeds of Australia. 2001