

## *Prosopis spp*

### **Common name:**

Mesquite,

### **Palatability:**

High at all stages.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Low risk.

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

Potentially toxic to sheep and cattle.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

Unknown.

### **Effects:**

*Signs and symptoms;*

. Severe chronic indigestion, with progressive weight loss.

*Health and Production Problems;*

. Can lead to death, after many months of sickness.

*Treatment;*

Be aware of potential stock problems.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

. Good fodder for goats.  
. Grub out, chain at right angles.  
. Try herbicides.  
. Biological control agents are being used.  
. A declared "Noxious" weed in all mainland states.

### **Comments:**

. A straggly, woody, deciduous or evergreen, thorny, perennial shrub, with one or more trunks.  
. Leaves are variable, hairy, feathery, and bipinnate, often confused with mimosa.  
. A pair of spines are usually found above each leaf stalk.  
. Flowers are tiny, greenish-yellow, on long spikes, from late spring to early autumn.

. Long pods contain the seeds.  
. Reproduces from seed passed in dung, or by suckers.  
. Fire aids in stimulating seed germination, and damage to top growth or surface roots may stimulate vegetative shoots. Branches touching the ground may take root.  
. A native of Mexico imported as a shade and fodder tree.



Picture: *Prosopis spp* Mesquite  
NSW Agreculture. Poster Namoi-Guyder

### **Further Reading:**

. AGDEX 647.  
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Weeds of Southern Queensland. 1997.  
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Noxious Weeds of Australia. 2001  
. Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000  
. Swarbrick and Skarratt. Bushweed 2 Database. 1994