

Prunus spp

Common name:

Apricot, Almond, Cherry, Plum, Peach, Prunus,

Palatability to Livestock:

High.

Toxicity to Goats:

Moderate risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Toxic to sheep and cattle.

Poisonous Principle:

- . Cyanogenetic glycosides,
- . Prussic acid.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Fall down, struggle to get up,
- . Shiver and shake,
- . Rapid pulse,
- . Difficulty in breathing.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Death within hours.

Treatment;

See Vet.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Dispose of seeds and cuttings carefully.
- . Do not feed these cuttings to any livestock.
- . Use herbicides.

Comments:

- . Fruit pulp is not toxic, only the seeds/stones.
- . Foliage may be toxic.
- . Australian species, (*P. laurocerasus*, cherry laurel,) is an ornamental, and toxic; glossy dark green leaves, give off a hydrocyanic acid smell, when bruised, contains HCN.
- . Spikes of small perfumed creamy white flowers, and small dark purplish black toxic berries.

. Deciduous fruit trees, have long pointed leaves, flowering is on bare branches in spring.

. All *Prunus spp* have toxic seeds, the foliage is palatable to livestock, but they must not be allowed to eat the kernel/stones/seeds.



Picture: *Prunus spp* Flowering Cherry.

Further Reading:

- . Everist. Poisonous Plants in Australia. 1981
- . Huggins and Lucy. Weeds of Southern Queensland. 1997
- . Parsons and Cuthbertson. Noxious Weeds of Australia. 2001
- . Swarbrick and Skarratt Bushweed 2 Database. 1994
- . Wilson. Some Plants are Poisonous. 1997.