

Solanum mauritianum

Common name:

Wild tobacco tree. Tobacco bush,

Palatability to Livestock:

Moderate at all stages.

Toxicity to Goats:

Low risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Potentially toxic to sheep and cattle, pigs.

Poisonous Principle:

Steroidal alkaloid glycosides.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Profuse diarrhoea.
- . Nervous depression.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Significant weight loss.
- . Death, probably from heart failure, after a week.

Treatment;

- . See Vet.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Try goats,
- . Grub out,
- . Use herbicides,
- . Foliar spray for small plants, cut stump for larger trees.

Comments:

- . A small soft wooded tree, growing up to four metres high, found in gardens and the bush.
- . Reproducing by shooting from the base, or by seed.
- . Stems and under leaves are grey-green with a thick coating of hairs giving a texture of felt.
- . Leaves are long, wide, oval and tapering to a long tip, alternately big and small on the stem, drooping, and rank smelling if crushed.

- . Flowers violet to purple, star-shaped, in flat-top clusters at the end of branches, in spring, they also smell if crushed.
- . Fruits are berries, rounded, dull green to pale yellow when mature.
- . A colonizer of disturbed sites, it will reach maturity in one growing year; also stimulated by fire.
- . All parts may cause dermatitis to humans.
- . Found in high rainfall areas in coastal NSW and Queensland.
- . Sometimes eaten freely by livestock without being poisoned.
- . Native to Argentina.
- . Found in NSW, Queensland, SA, Tasmania, and Victoria, in wet areas, rainforests, pastures and roadsides.



Picture: *Solanum mauritianum*
Helen Simmonds. Calga NSW.

Reference:

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