

## *Thevetia peruviana*

### **Common name:**

Yellow oleander, Tree daffodil,  
Cook tree, Be-still tree,

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Not known to be eaten.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

High risk.

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

Toxic to all livestock, and humans.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

Cardiac glycosides, notably, thevetin, having a digitalis type reaction.

### **Effects:**

#### *Signs and symptoms;*

- . Depression,
- . Diarrhoea,
- . Slow irregular heart beat, heart block.
- . In humans, burning in the mouth, tingling tongue, vomiting, drowsiness slow pulse.

#### *Health and Production Problems;*

- . Rapid death in many cases.

#### *Treatment;*

See Vet or Doctor.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Do not feed these clippings to any livestock.
- . Use herbicides, do not burn residue.
- . Place clippings into a disposable bag, and bury deeply, do not compost.
- . Declared “Noxious” in Queensland.

### **Comments:**

- . A garden plant or escapee.
- . A shrub up to 3.5 metres high, of neat rounded appearance.
- . Leaves are alternate, long, narrow, glossy, bright green, and tapered at both ends.

. Toxic milky latex from all parts of the plant, if damaged.

. Flowers, fruit and leaves are toxic, even when dried.

. Bunches of drooping flowers are bright yellow, fragrant, and funnel shaped, at the end of branches, in spring to autumn.

. Fruits are thick and oval, with a groove around the middle, usually green, becoming black, containing a hard centre, with two kernels inside, this is the most toxic part.

. One seed can kill an infant.

. All parts toxic.

. In humans, vomiting, diarrhoea, irregular pulse, burning mouth, drowsiness.

. Native of tropical America, related to frangipani.



Picture: *Thevetia peruviana* Wikimedia

### **Further Reading:**

- . Everist. Poisonous Plants in Australia. 1981
- . McBarron. Medical and Veterinary Aspects of Plant Poisons. 1976.
- . Dowling and McKenzie. Poisonous Plants. 1993.
- . Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004.
- . Wilson. Some Plants are Poisonous. 1997.