

Aleurites moluccana

Common name:

Candle nut,

Palatability to Livestock:

Probably not eaten, a member of the Euphorbia family.

Toxicity to Goats:

Probably toxic.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Nuts are toxic to humans before cooking.

Poisonous Principle:

. A phytotoxin and a saponin,

Effects:

Signs and Symptoms:

. Has been eaten without ill-effects, but (possibly unripe nuts) have sometimes been reported to cause severe vomiting and diarrhoea.

. Probably the high fat content (50%) which produces most of the ill effects”.

. Pounded and roasted by aborigines before cooking.

. Two varieties, found in SE Asia and on Cape York north of the Windsor Tableland, and another between Windsor Tableland and Townsville, have been shown to be more toxic.

. Raw nuts produce severe purging.

Health and Production Problems:

. Be aware of health risks with raw nuts.

Treatment:

. See Doctor,

Integrated Control Strategy:

. Not applicable.

Comments:

. A large, evergreen, spreading tree with alternate leaves which have 3 - 7 lobes, and long tapering tips.

. Leaves may reach up to 20cms long and 10cms wide on long stalks, but are usually only half this size.

. Leaves are shiny above and lighter below, often with a silvery bloom.

. Flowers are in bunches, small, bell-shaped, creamy white and fragrant.

. Fruits are fleshy, about 5cms across, and contain one ribbed seed with a waxy kernel.

. A member of the Euphorbia family.

. Native to tropical Asia, Pacific Islands, Australia and NZ.



Picture: Helen Simmonds. Calga. NSW.



Picture: *Aleurites moluccana* Wikipedia

Further Reading:

. Covacevich, Davie and Pearn.
Toxic Plants and Animals. 1987.