**Alstonia constricta**

**Common name:**
Bitter bark, Quinine tree, Peruvian bark,

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Moderate.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Low risk.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Cattle and sheep.

**Poisonous Principle:**
. Alkaloids, alstonine, alstonidine, and reserpine.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
. Excitability, nervous reactions,
. Stiffness of limbs, staggars,
. Reddening of mucous membranes around the eyes.

*Health and Production Problems;*
. Most cases of toxicity occur when grass fodder is dry and scarce.

*Treatment;*
. Be aware of potential stock problems.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. Chopping the trees induces suckering.
. Try cut stump treatment, with Tordon® or Picloran®.
. Use caution in allowing stock access to these trees in dry seasons.

**Comments:**
. A tree up to 12 metres high, often suckering at the base forming thickets.
. Outer bark is corky and yellow-grey, and the inner bark is yellow, exuding a milky sap, bitter to taste.
. Leaves are opposite, bright green, flaccid, and with a slender stalk, which exudes a milky sap if broken.
. Flowers are star-shaped, creamy, in open bunches at the ends of branches.
. Fruits are long pods, with many narrow, tufted seeds.
. Found in central and southern Queensland, north-west slopes, and north-west plains of NSW.
. Stock appear to be able to eat this plant most of the time, without ill-effects.
. Seasons when feed is dry and scarce, seem to be when animals are affected.
. There is no quinine in this plant.

**Picture:** Alstonia spp

**Further Reading:**

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