**Brachychiton populneus**

Common name: Kurrajong

Palatability to Livestock: High at all stages.

Toxicity to Goats: Low risk.

Toxicity to Other Species: Potentially toxic to sheep and cattle.

Poisonous Principle: Unknown.

Effects:

* Signs and Symptoms; A vague locomotor disturbance.

* Health and Production Problems; Loss of appetite, ill thrift and sometimes death.

Treatment; Be aware of possible stock problems.

Integrated Control Strategy; Not feasible.

Comments:

* Rarely poisonous, but if large amounts of seeds are present on fruiting trees, poisoning can occur.

* Stock also need alternative feed.

* A small spreading tree, with a large diameter butt, tapered stem, and grey bark on older trees.

* Leaves are a shiny green, alternate, smooth, and with short stalks.

* Flowers are bell-shaped and cream or pink, flecked with red. The tree usually sheds its leaves before flowering.

* The fruit is a woody boat-shaped pod, with hairs on the seeds. These can be very irritating to the skin, and may be toxic.

* Seeds can be eaten raw or roasted, after removing the hairs. Swollen roots of young trees can also be eaten.

* Found in rocky areas, plains, and on river banks, in a variety of soils.

* An excellent shade and shelter tree, as well as good fodder for stock. Slow growing when young, but drought and frost tolerant.

* Careful lopping of branches will allow regeneration. This tree has an extensive root system.

* The roots and seeds are edible, and the fibres from the trunk can be used for making twine.

* B. acerifolius, Illawarra Flame Tree, is a member of the same species.

* Occurs from central Queensland through NSW to Victoria and South Australia.

Further Reading:

* AGFACTS, 647. Dept Ag. NSW.

* Elliot and Jones. Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants. 1981

* Everist.. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981

* Simmonds Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000

Picture: *Brachychiton populneus* Wikipedia

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