**Brunfelsia spp**

**Common name:**
Yesterday Today and Tomorrow.
Franciscia.

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Eaten occasionally.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
None reported.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Dogs are attracted to the berries, but are poisoned by them, also cattle and humans.

**Poisonous Principle:**
. Probably manicine and manacein, and / or gelsemic acid. Solanine-type alkaloids.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
. Salivation, vomiting, enteritis.
. Excessive urination.
. Depression.
. Incoordination of movement, leading to tremors, convulsions and tetanic spasms.
. Dogs exhibit symptoms similar to snail bait (metaldehyde) or strychnine poisoning after chewing the plant or seeds.

*Health and Production Problems;*
. Post mortem examinations showed only gastrointestinal lesions.

*Treatment;*
. None known. Induce vomiting.
. Try absorbent charcoal. See Vet.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. A garden plant.
. Do not feed to any livestock,

**Comments:**
. A shrub about two metres high, with many branches and dense foliage; some species are deciduous.
. Leaves are flat, green and oval.
. Flowers are five lobed and bright blue when they first open, changing to almost white as they age.
. Some species are perfumed, others a have foul smell.
. Berries produced in summer are green, changing to brown, then almost black.
. Native to tropical America.
. Found as an ornamental shrub in tropical and temperate parts of Australia.
. Two spp of this plant are used for making hallucinogenic drinks. The active principles have not been identified. These species are not known to be in Australia.
. *B. pauciflora* and *B. brasileinsis* rarely set fruit in the Sydney region, and are not likely to cause problems to dogs.
. Affected dogs become unbalanced on their feet. Collapse and convulsions may occur, with paddling of the feet and the head bent right back, finally the seizure passes.
. This may re occur, especially after a fright.
. Death can occur within 10 hours.
. Dogs regularly seek green roughage.
. Toxins interfere with the motor centre of the brain and spine, and cause lassitude, greenish stools and kidney failure.
. Do not allow children to eat these berries.

Picture: *Brunfelsia spp* Helen Simmonds. Calga NSW

**Further Reading:**
. Wilson. Some Plants are Poisonous. 1997

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