

## *Caesalpinia spp*

### **Common name:**

Red Bird of Paradise, Mysore thorn,  
Wait-a-While, Whoa back

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Eaten under stress conditions.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Moderate risk.

### **Toxicity to Other Species**

Toxic to most livestock species.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

Tannins, and unknown toxins.

### **Effects:**

*Signs and Symptoms;*

. Diarrhoea, gastro-enteritis.

*Health and Production Problems;*

. Recovery is usually rapid.

*Treatment;*

. Be aware of potential stock problems.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

Spot spray with a herbicide, including a wetting agent. eg, Tordon® or Brushoff®

### **Comments:**

. A woody scrambling shrub up to 3metres high, some species have long thorny branches and hooked spines.

. Leaflets are long and feathery, and may be deciduous.

. Branches are drooping, slender and thin.

. Usually found in rain forest or open forest, in Queensland and NSW, also found in Western Australia.

. It has spikes of attractive yellow spidery flowers in the leaf axils, with bright red stamens, curving up and out, appearing in spring to autumn.

. Reproducing by seed, seeds and pods are toxic.

. Often planted around watering points; the seed pods often floating away to spread the seed down-stream.

. The green pods of these plants are very irritating to the gastro-intestinal tract.

. *C. gilliesii* is grown as an ornamental, but is now regarded as a garden escapee.

. Native to South America.



Picture; *Caesalpinia spp* Brushoff

### **Further Reading:**

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. Hussey, Keighery, Cousens, Dodd and Lloyd. Western Weeds, 1997.

. Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004.

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

. Swarbrick and Skarratt. Bushweed 2 Database. 1997.

. Wilson. Some Plants are Poisonous. 1997