**Cassia artemisioides**

**Common name:**
Silver cassia, Punty bush,
Dense cassia,

**Palatability to Livestock:**
May be unpalatable, but eaten in times of food shortage.
Immature pods and seeds are the most toxic.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Moderate risk.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Toxic to all livestock species.

**Poisonous Principle:**
Anthraquinone glyccocides and an unidentified toxin.

**Effects:**
*Signs and Symptoms;*
  - Diarrhoea initially.
  - Difficulty and reluctance to walk, and a stiff gait.
  - Dark brown or red urine.
  - Recumbency, increased heart rate.
  - Difficulty in breathing.

*Health and Production Problems;*
  - Causes damage to the muscles of the skeleton and the heart.
  - Can give rise to loss of appetite and weight loss.
  - Can cause rapid death in some cases.

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

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
- Basal bark or cut stump treatment with a selective herbicide.

**Comments:**
- Plants bearing seed pods are the most poisonous.
- An upright, spreading, silvery shrub, up to three metres high.
- The leaves are very variable, whitish to grey-green; some leaflets are very short-lived, leaving bare petioles.
- Bright yellow flowers grow in short racemes in the leaf axils, as long as new growth is being produced; flowering is mainly in winter and spring.
- This is an important weed of rangeland in northern NSW, and forms dense stands. It prefers a sunny site with well drained soil, is quick growing but short lived, and reproduces by seed.
- This plant contains high levels of protein and phosphorus, but little fibre.
- This plant has now become a problem woody weed in the region. It is browsed at times by sheep, but is not palatable to cattle.

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**Further Reading:**
- Auld and Medd. Weeds. 1992
- Elliot and Jones. Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants. 1997
- Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000
- Wilson. Some Plants are Poisonous. 1997

Information included in this Info Sheet was obtained from the source documents, and no responsibility will be accepted by the compiler.