

Cassia eremophila

Common name:

Punty Bush, Desert Cassia,
Scented Cassia

Palatability to Livestock:

- . Maybe unpalatable, but eaten in times of food shortage.
- . Immature pods and seeds seem to be the most palatable.

Toxicity to Goats:

Low risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Toxic to all livestock species.

Poisonous Principle:

Antraquinone glycosides and an unknown toxin.

Effects:

Signs and Symptoms;

- . Diarrhoea initially.
- . Difficulty and reluctance to walk, and a stiff gait.
- . Dark brown or red urine.
- . Recumbency, and 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;

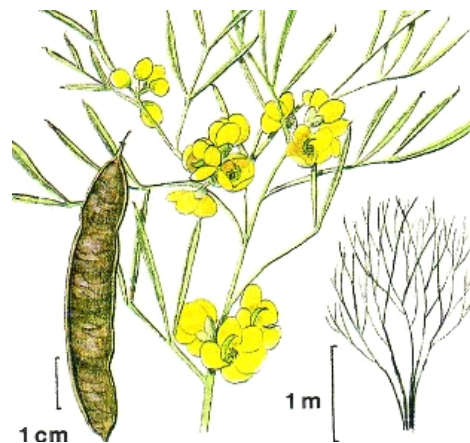
Be aware of potential stock problems.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Basal bark or cut stump treatment with herbicide.

Comments:

- . Plants bearing seed pods are the most poisonous.
- . A bushy, erect shrub up to three metres high.
- . Leaves are variable, from small leaflets to pairs of long leaflets, often shed with age.
- . Flowers are like yellow buttercups, in short racemes, in the leaf axils, mainly winter to spring.
- . Pods are about nine mm long, splitting along the edges when ripe.
- . Widespread through Queensland and NSW as a weed of cultivation and roadsides. Now a problem weed, maybe due to overstocking and lack of bushfires.
- . A short lived species, up to ten years, a prolific seeder. Seed germinates after heavy rain
- . Predisposes land to water erosion.
- . Rarely browsed by any form of livestock, but pods utilized by sheep and goats.
- . All varieties contain useful amounts of protein and phosphorus, but are low in fibre.
- . Goats will effectively remove the plant, but to maintain a shrub-free area may be counter productive in a sheep and cattle enterprise.



Picture; *Cassia eremophila* Dept Ag Poster.

Further Reading:

- . Auld and Medd. Weeds. 1992.
- . Cunningham, Mulham, Milthorpe and Leigh. Plants of Western NSW. 1999
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000