**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:**
Anthraquinone 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.

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