

## *Cestrum spp*

### **Common name:**

Green / Orange cestrum,  
Lady of the night, Green poisonberry,

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Seldom eaten unless the animal is hungry.

### **Toxicity to Livestock:**

High risk.

### **Toxicity to Other Species:**

Toxic to all livestock and humans.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

Possibly a carboxyatractylocide and solasonine.

### **Effects:**

*Signs and symptoms;*

- . Depression, Abdominal pain,
- . Irritability, weakness, then recumbency.
- . In humans, Hallucination, high temperature.
- . Bowel haemorrhage.

*Health and Production Problems;*

- . Causes acute liver necrosis and death, within three days.

*Treatment;*

- . See Vet or Doctor, treatment for solanine poisoning may be attempted.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Cut stump, and treat with herbicide.
- . The root system must be destroyed. Leave for six months for the herbicide to translocate.
- . Try glyphosates or metsulfuron methyl.
- . Fence off the area, since dead leaves and branches are still toxic. Incinerate remains.
- . Declared “Noxious” in Victoria, and in parts of NSW and Queensland.

### **Comments:**

- . Garden escapee, do not feed to stock.
- . All parts of the plant, especially the berries are poisonous, also toxic to children.
- . Toxicity levels may be variable.
- . Commonly involved in plant poisonings, especially in coastal NSW, when feed is scarce,

- . A perennial shrub growing up to 3 metres high
- . Stems are erect and woody, roots are yellow.
- . Leaves are alternate, shiny and dark green, pointed at both ends, and have a foul smell if crushed.
- . Flowers are yellow, orange, or red, and trumpet-shaped, from 2 – 12 cms long, growing in clusters, from spring to autumn.
- . They have a fragrant perfume at night, which can cause respiratory problems, headache and nausea.
- . Berries are oval and glossy green, turning black when ripe, and will stain the skin if crushed. Some varieties are white.
- . The plant reproduces by seed and rhizomes,
- . A native of Chilli, found from coastal Queensland, coastal NSW to Victoria.
- . Most cases of poisoning are in cattle eating it when under hunger stress in winter/spring.



Picture: Helen Simmonds. Calga NSW. Red cestrum



Picture: wikipedia Yellow cestrum

### **References;**

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