

Cryptostegia grandiflora

Common name:

Rubber vine,

Palatability to Livestock:

Low.

Toxicity to Goats:

High risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Cattle, sheep, horses and donkeys.

Poisonous Principle:

Cardiac glycosides.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Depression,
- . Diarrhoea,
- . Slow irregular heart beat,
- . Eventually heart block.

Health and Production Problems;

. Rapid death in some cases, but little effect in others until mustered when they may drop dead, unexpectedly.

Treatment;

- . Be aware of potential stock problems.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Bulldoze and burn, but take care as it is very flammable when green.
- . Herbicides are very slow to act. Try basal bark treatment, and spot spraying.
- . This is a declared "Noxious Weed" in parts of Queensland, the Northern Territory, and parts of Western Australia.

Comments:

- . Ruminants, such as the goat are more tolerant of this type of plant, than horses and donkeys.

- . A rampant, woody, climbing shrub, found in semi-arid tropical areas.
- . Seeds germinate with the first rains giving rise to a plant which quickly smothers everything.
- . Exudes a milky sap when damaged.
- . Flowers are large, trumpet shaped, and lilac to purple/pink, turning white with age, growing at the ends of the branches.
- . Some claims have been made that goats have achieved success in controlling rubber plant.
- . Fire kills most small plants, and about half of the adult plants.
- . Not very palatable, therefore not often eaten, however, losses can occur in times of poor feed aggravated by being driven too hard.
- . Young pale green leaves are more toxic than mature dark green leaves.



Picture: *Cryptostegia grandiflora* Brushhoff

Further Reading:

- . Dowling and McKenzie. Poisonous Plants. Qld 1993
- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981.
- . Parsons and Cuthbertson. Noxious Weeds of Australia. 2001
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000.