**Cycas spp**

See also *Macrozamia and Bowenia*.

**Common name:**
Zamia, Sago palm,

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Eaten occasionally.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Potentially toxic.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Mainly cattle, but potentially toxic to all livestock.

**Poisonous Principle:**
. Macrozamin,
. Potassium oxalate,
. Other toxins.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
. Partial paralysis, and weakening of the hind quarters, caused by eating the leaves.
. Scouring, jaundice and gastro-enteritis caused by eating the seed.
. Degeneration of parts of the spinal cord and the brain.

*Health and Production Problems;*
. As above. “Zamia Staggers”
. Leaves, fruit and seeds very toxic, especially to young children, (seeds, orange to red).

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

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. Grub out if possible.
. Fire and herbicide in August/September destroys existing plants, and prevents pollination. Try Tordon®
. Surviving plants are easily identified.

**Comments:**
. Palm like plants, leaf fronds borne at the trunk apex, in a spreading crown.
. The flower/fruit forms in a cone shape, sometimes in the centre of the crown, or hanging beneath the fronds. There are male and female plants.
. In some species, the main stem is underground, with the crown showing at ground level; others have trunks.
. Records of poisoning appear to be associated with the burrawang variety.
. From W.A. – young leaves eaten occasionally, without apparent harm.
. When feed is scarce, remove animals from paddocks containing numerous *Cycas spp.* which have seeds, or young leaves, as these are the most toxic parts.
. Dwarf Sago Palm is also very toxic.
. Occurs in Western Australia, coastal NSW and Queensland.

*Picture: Cycads spp*

**Further Reading:**

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