

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;

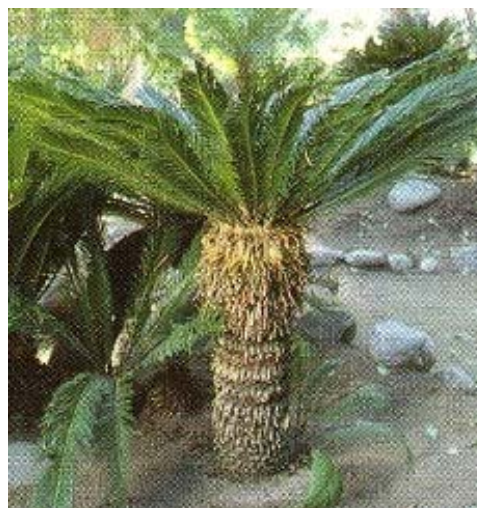
- . Be aware of potential stock problems.

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:

- . Dowling and MacKenzie. Poisonous Plants. 1993.
- . Everist Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981
- . McBarron. Poisonous Plants Handbook. 1983.
- . McKenzie. Veterinary Clinical Toxicology. 2000.
- . Parsons and Cuthbertson. Noxious Weeds of Australia. 2001.
- . Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004.