

## *Duranta repens*

### **Common name:**

Golden dewdrop, Pigeon berry,

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Garden plant, not known to be eaten.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Low degree of toxicity.

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

Potentially toxic to grazing animals and pets.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

- . Saponins,
- . Unknown alkaloids,
- . Unknown glucocide,
- . Prussic acid (HCN). maybe pyridine.

### **Effects:**

*Signs and symptoms;*

- . Sleepiness,
- . High temperature,
- . Convulsions,
- . Swelling of lips and eye-lids.

*Health and Production Problems;*

- . Stock may die after being fed these clippings.

*Treatment;*

Be aware of potential stock problems.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Do not feed garden clippings to livestock.
- . Prune clippings into disposable bags.
- . Induce vomiting, then activated charcoal.
- . See Vet.

### **Comments:**

- . Berries cause fever and convulsions.
- . A much branched, fast-growing, bushy, evergreen, garden shrub or small tree.
- . Stems up to four metres, long or high, stems are drooping, some varieties have spines.

- . Leaves, opposite, tapering, thin and oval.
- . Sometimes leaves are variegated.
- . Small trumpet shaped flowers in a compound raceme, either white or blue.
- . Flowers hang on a one-sided raceme.
- . Shiny, succulent, toxic fruits are small, egg-shaped and yellow, on long strings.
- . Flowers and fruit appear at the same time, from spring to autumn.
- . Often used as a hedge plant.
- . Native to tropical America. Used as a hedge plant in NSW and Queensland.
- . Can grow from cuttings.



Picture: *Duranta repens* Helen Simmonds. Calga. NSW

### **Further Reading:**

- . Covacevich, Davie and Pearn. Toxic Plants and Animals. A Guide for Australia. 1987.
- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981
- . McBarron Medical and Veterinary Aspects of Plant Poisons in NSW. 1976
- . Wilson. Some Plants are Poisonous. 1997
- . Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004.