**Jatropha curcas/multifida**

**Common name:**
Physic nut, Purge nut, Coral plant,

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Not known to be eaten.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Potentially toxic.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Potentially toxic to all animal species.

**Poisonous Principle:**
. Purgative oil,
. Curcin, phytotoxic.
. Glycocides,
. Resin, producing dermatitis.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
. Acute gastro-enteritis.
. Depression, collapse, in humans
. Dermatitis and eye irritant to humans.

**Health and Production Problems:**
Usually, a rapid recovery.

**Treatment:**
See Vet or Doctor.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. Declared “Noxious” in NT and WA
. Do not feed these clippings to any livestock.
. Dig out and burn, cultivate and use herbicides.

**Comments:**
. Garden plant naturalised in parts of Australia.
. A small tree or large shrub, with milky sap and thin bark.
. Leaves are heart-shaped, thin and green, with several veins, on long leaf stalks.

. Flowers are small, inconspicuous, reddish and look like coral.
. Fruits are oval, yellow- green and fleshy, becoming dark brown, reportedly sweet, with several black seeds.
. Native to tropical America, growing in warmer parts of Australia.
. Seeds and oil are very toxic, tasting of peanuts, a skin and eye irritant to humans.
. Traditionally used for hedging, candle and soap making.
. May have an anti-tumor activity.

. Symptoms in humans, include vomiting, diarrhoea, cramps, numbness and paralysis in arms and legs, similar to those caused by atropine – diminished sweating, dry skin and mouth, slight dilation of pupil, slight increase in heart beat, and flushing of facial skin. Covacevich.

Picture: Jatropha curcas agric.wa.gov.au

**References:**
. Covacevich, Davie and Pearn. Toxic Plants and Animals. 1987
. Parsons and Cuthbertson.

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