

Lonicera japonica

Common name:

Honeysuckle,

Palatability to Livestock:

Moderate.

Toxicity to Goats:

Not known to be toxic.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Humans.

Poisonous Principle:

- . Saponins.
- . Toxic alkaloids, and tannins.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Hayfever, and other allergies.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Black berries are poisonous.
- . Leaves may also be poisonous.
- . Flowers may cause hayfever.

Treatment;

See Doctor,

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Prune heavily, and use Roundup®

Comments:

- . Garden plant and escapee.
- . Leaves are variable in shape and size, opposite, margins are smooth or lobed in the juvenile state and bright green.
- . An evergreen, or weakly deciduous climber.
- . Stems are mostly purplish and hairy when young, becoming woody with flakey bark on mature stems.
- . Fruit is a shiny black berry with seeds.
- . Flowers in pairs near branch tips, white to cream often purplish outside, and turning yellow; sweetly scented, summer to autumn flowering.

- . Native to E Asia.
- . Found all over Australia in gardens and the bush.
- . Spread by seed and vegetative stolons.
- . Stems root at the nodes and develop a deep taproot before the aerial stems take off.
- . Reshoots after fire, cut stumps also reshoot, and the stems layer and produce roots.
- . Flower buds are only produced from two year old stems.
- . Seeds/berries, potentially dangerous, also a skin irritant, and cause hay fever in humans,



Picture: *Lonicera japonica*
Helen Simmonds. Calga NSW.

Further Reading;

- . CSIRO
- . Blood. Environmental Weeds. Field Guide for SE Australia. CRC Weed Man Systems. 2003.
- . McBarron. Medical and Veterinary Aspects of Plant Poisons in NSW. 1976.
- . Paterson. Herbs in the Garden. 1985
- . Roth. Weeds. Friend or Foe. 2001.
- . Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous, 2004
- . Swarbrick and Skarratt. Bushweed 2 Database.1997.
- . Wilson. Some Plants are Poisonous. 1997