

## *Macadamia spp*

### **Common name:**

Macadamia nut,

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Unknown.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Unknown.

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

. Dogs, estimated four to five nuts for a twenty kilogram dog is lethal.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

. Unknown, similar species contain cyanogenetic glycosides which can be removed by prolonged leaching.

. This method was used by the Aborigines.

### **Effects:**

#### *Signs and Symptoms:*

- . Posterior paralysis,
- . Recumbency,
- . Muscle tremor,
- . Depression,

#### *Health and Production Problems:*

- . Do not allow dogs to eat these nuts,

#### *Treatment:*

- . Animals seem to recover in 12 – 24 hours,
- . Medication for joint pain,
- . See Vet.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Be aware of potential stock problems.

### **Comments:**

- . Small to large evergreen trees with rounded crowns.
- . Leaves are toothed, glossy and dark green, with smooth or serrated margins, in whorls around the stem.
- . Young pinkish leaves from some spp are cyanogenetic, but this becomes less as the leaves mature.

- . Tiny flowers in drooping racemes, in spring, white to pink or purple, with four tepals.
- . The fruit is in very hard, woody shells contain one or two seeds, in autumn.
- . Only two of this species are used as a valuable food crop. The other members of the species are regarded as poisonous, or inedible.
- . Other members of this species contain cyanogenetic glycosides, which can be removed by leaching for a long time. Used by the indigenous people. (Aborigines).



Picture: *Macadamia spp* wikipedia

### **Further Reading:**

- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981.
- . McKenzie. Veterinary Clinical Toxicology. 2000.
- . wikipedia