Parkinsonia aculeata

Common name:
Parkinsonia, Jerusalem thorn,

Palatability to Livestock:
Moderate.

Toxicity to Goats:
Low risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:
Potentially toxic to sheep and cattle.

Poisonous Principle:
Nitrites.

Effects:

*Signs and symptoms;*
  . Respiratory distress,
  . Darkening of the gums.

Health and Production Problems;
  . Sometimes death, or recovery.

Treatment;
  . Be aware of potential health problems.

Integrated Control Strategy:
  . Mechanical removal, grub out, or bulldoze.
  . Basal bark, or cut-stump treatment, for mature trees.
  . Declared “Noxious” in South Australia and parts of Western Australia.

Comments:
  . A spiny branching tree or shrub, often forming a dense scrub.
  . Stems are crooked and drooping.
  . The long leaves have short stalks, with several leaflets.
  . Sharp spines protrude at the leaf base.
  . Clusters of flowers on long stalks are yellow and perfumed, growing in the leaf axils.
  . Sharp, pointed, seed pods are light brown, with constrictions between the seed.

. Seeds germinate after rain, into a single thorny stem.
. Spread is by seed, usually during floods.
. Flowering is after several years growth, but can be at any time, when mature.
. A native of Central America, was imported into Australia as a fodder plant.
. Found in WA, NT, Queensland, and northern NSW.
. Sheep will eat the leaves, but cattle do not fancy this plant.

Further Reading:
  . Agdex 647.

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