**Prunus spp**

**Common name:**
Apricot, Almond, Cherry, Plum, Peach, Prunus,

**Palatability to Livestock:**
High.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Moderate risk.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Toxic to sheep and cattle.

**Poisonous Principle:**
. Cyanogenic glycosides,
. Prussic acid.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
. Fall down, struggle to get up,
. Shiver and shake,
. Rapid pulse,
. Difficulty in breathing.

*Health and Production Problems;*
. Death within hours.

*Treatment;*
See Vet.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. Dispose of seeds and cuttings carefully.
. Do not feed these cuttings to any livestock.
. Use herbicides.

**Comments:**
. Fruit pulp is not toxic, only the seeds/stones.
. Foliage may be toxic.
. Australian species, (P. laurocerasus, cherry laurel,) is an ornamental, and toxic; glossy dark green leaves, give off a hydrocyanic acid smell, when bruised, contains HCN.
. Spikes of small perfumed creamy white flowers, and small dark purplish black toxic berries.

. Deciduous fruit trees, have long pointed leaves, flowering is on bare branches in spring.
. All *Prunus spp* have toxic seeds, the foliage is palatable to livestock, but they must not be allowed to eat the kernel/stones/seeds.

Picture: Prunus spp  Flowering Cherry.

Further Reading:
. Swarbrick and Skarratt Bushweed 2 Database. 1994

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