

Robinia pseudoacacia

Common name:

Robinia, Black locust, False acacia,

Palatability:

Moderate.

Toxicity to Goats:

Low risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Potentially toxic to sheep, cattle, horses, pigs, and poultry.

Poisonous Principle:

- . Toxalbumins,
- . Phytotoxins in the bark and seeds.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Weakness and depression,
- . Diarrhoea,
- . Hind leg paralysis,
- . Loss of appetite,
- . Colic.
- . In humans, dizziness, vomiting, gastroenteritis, dilation of the pupils, convulsions, slowing of heart rate.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Death within days, but recovery is more likely.
- . Toxic honey from bee hives.

Treatment;

See Vet or Doctor.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Control achieved by grazing strategy.

Comments:

- . A garden plant, a thorny, deciduous tree growing to 20 metres high.
- . Suckers are red tinted and thorny, growing in profusion.

- . Forking branches are crooked.
- . Bright green leaves are pinnate and feathery, with oval leaflets, turning yellow in autumn.
- . Thorns, up to one cm, at the base of leaves.
- . White and pink, sweet scented, pea-shaped flower clusters in spring at ends of branches, in early summer.
- . Fruit is a pod, reddish, flat and leathery, with seeds.
- . Bark is dark brown and gnarled, thick and deeply furrowed. Has a liquorice flavour and is purgative, also contains alkaloids which clot the blood, and affects red blood cells, and coagulates casein in milk.
- . All parts are toxic, especially bark, wood, roots and seeds, thorns are a skin irritant.



Picture: *Robinia pseudoacacia*

Further Reading:

- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981
- . Huggins and Lucy. Weeds of Southern Qld. 1997.
- . Kohnke. Feeding and Nutrition of Horses. 1998.
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000
- . Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004.
- . Wilson. Some Plants are Poisonous. 1997.