**Sambucus nigra**

**Common name:**
Elder, Black Elder,

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Unknown.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Unknown.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Reportedly toxic to cattle and pigs.

**Poisonous Principle:**
. Unknown toxic alkaloids,
. Cyanogenetic glycosides
. Purgative substances.

**Effects:**

*Signs and Symptoms:*
. Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, and dizziness.
. In humans: ripe berries are not considered toxic, but produce nausea if too many are eaten.

*Health and Production Problems:*
. Be aware of potential problems.

*Treatment:*
See Doctor or Vet.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. Slash, or use herbicide.

**Comments:**
. Berries and flowers are edible, and often used in home wine making.
. Native to Europe and E Asia.
. Deciduous tree with light brown bark, which is green on young branches, growing to ten metres high.
. Large leaves are in opposite pairs, upper surface dark green, paler below, divided into leaflets, lance shaped with toothed margins.
. Flowers are white to cream, in dense flat topped clusters, star-shaped, musk scented, in late spring to early summer and autumn.

Fruit is a berry, shiny, dark purple, eight mm in diameter, in drooping bunches, autumn to winter; must be cooked before eating.
. Grows in wet areas near rocks and walls.
. Roots, bark, stem, leaves and unripe berries can be toxic.

*S. gaudichaudiana*, White Elder, an Australian native, is suspected of poisoning stock.

**Further Reading:**