

Sapium sebiferum

Common name:

Chinese tallow tree

Palatability to Livestock:

Moderate.

Toxicity to Goats:

Low risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

All livestock.

Poisonous Principle:

Unknown.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . A powerful cathartic.
- . Produces an increase in blood urea.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Be aware of potential stock problems.

Treatment;

- . See Vet.
- . Do not feed clippings to livestock.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Tree grows from seed and suckers, so paint with glyphosate, and control seeding.
- . Weed into disposable bags.

Comments:

- . Garden Plant, may be an escapee.
- . A spreading, deciduous tree up to 10m high.
- . Branches may be drooping or horizontal.
- . Leaves are alternate, thin and bright green, turning red before falling.
- . Flowers are a yellow/green, and tiny, in terminal spikes.
- . Fruit is a small, round, berry, turning from green to brown, about one cm across, with three lobes; the fruit splits when ripe releasing three seeds covered with a creamy white wax.

- . The waxy coating from seeds is used for soap and candle making, and as an edible fat.
- . Ground up seeds are used as stock feed.
- . The tree exudes a milky white sap when cut, which is reputed to be toxic.
- . The leafy shoots and seeds may be a powerful purgative to cattle, less so to sheep and goats.
- . Ingested seeds are reported to have caused illness in children.



Pictures: *Sapium sebiferum*
Helen Simmonds. Calga NSW.



Further Reading:

- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981
- . Covacevich. Davie and Pearn. Toxic Plants and Animals. 1987.