**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:

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