Schinus spp

Common name:
Pepper tree, Pepperina,

Palatability to Livestock:
Not normally grazed, but eaten by goats.

Toxicity to Goats:
Not known to be toxic.

Toxicity to Other Species:
Reportedly toxic to poultry, pigs and calves.

Poisonous Principle:
Volatile resin.

Effects:
Signs and symptoms;
. Gastroenteritis, irritation of mucus membranes.
. Dermatitis and hay fever, in humans.

Health and Production Problems;
. Leaves and fruit may cause poisoning or death in poultry, pigs and possibly calves.
. Children may have vomiting and diarrhoea after eating fruit.

Treatment;
Be aware of potential problems.

Integrated Control Strategy:
. Use goats.
. Control achieved by grazing management.

Comments:
. Garden escapee. An evergreen tree, growing to about ten metres high.
. Branches are slender and drooping, sap is aromatic.
. Leaves are drooping and fern-like, divided, shiny, and aromatic if crushed.
. Stemless leaflets are alternate and narrow, with margins smooth to toothed, pointed and shiny, resinous and aromatic when crushed.
. Trunk is often twisted and drips with sap, rough grayish bark.

. Flowers are greenish-white in small hanging clusters, throughout the year, male and female flowers are on separate plants.
. Fruits are round shiny and firm, turning green to pink or bluish with a crusty skin.
. Spread is by seeds or suckers. Germination is improved by passing through the gut of birds or other animals.
. Mature trees are resistant to fire and drought.
. The tree will resprout from lignotubers, trunk, and larger branches if damaged.
. Berries are allogenic to other plants.
. Native to N and S America, Mexico and Peru.
. Tolerates drought, poor and sandy soil.
. Invades riparian vegetation.

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