**Solanum pseudocapsicum**

**Common name:**
Madeira winter cherry, Jerusalem cherry

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Moderate.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Low risk.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Cattle, pigs and sheep, also humans and pets.

**Poisonous Principle:**
. Solanine type alkaloids,
. Can cause cardio-vascular dysfunction.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
. Abdominal pain, scouring,
. Listlessness, maybe some excitement,
. May cause blindness,
. Symptoms and degree of toxicity seem to vary, but prudence indicates caution.

**Health and Production Problems:**
. Fruits and seeds poisonous to humans and livestock.

**Treatment:**
. If eaten in large amounts, may cause vomiting (in animals capable of this), expelling the poison. If eaten in lesser amounts, the poison tends to be absorbed from the digestive tract.
. Restrict water intake.
. Try activated charcoal.
. See Vet or Doctor.
. Poisonings seem to occur from March to November, although berries occur for many months on the bushes.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. Be aware of potential problems,
. Pull plants out, and prevent reseeding.
. Use herbicides.

**Comments:**
. An erect, evergreen, perennial shrub, growing up to two metres high.
. Leaves are on short stalks, bright green, hairless, tapering at both ends, with wavy entire margins, and a prominent mid-rib.
. Flowers are white, with five tapering, bent-back petals, occurring mostly from spring to autumn, singly or in small groups, on short stalks, in the leaf axils.
. Fruit is a globular berry, about 15mms across, bright orange-red, like small tomatoes.
. Fruits are attractive to children, but are poisonous to humans.
. Reproduces by seed, spread by birds, et al.
. Plants have been seen at markets, as novelty plants, incorrectly labeled, and sold as edible.
. A native of South America.
. Now found in many parts of Australia, in disturbed coastal areas, also in South Australia, and Western Australia.

**Picture:** Solanum pseudocapsicum
Ron Collins and Helen Simmonds. Calga NSW

**Further Reading:**

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