**Trema spp**

**Common name:**
Peach-leaf poison bush,

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Seldom eaten.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
High risk.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Toxic to sheep, cattle and horses.

**Poisonous Principle:**
- Trematoxin glycocide.
- Can at times, be cyanogenetic.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
- Loss of appetite,
- Shivering, staggering, twitching,
- Gastro-enteritis,
- Excitement and struggling,
- Coma and death.

*Health and Production Problems;*
- Affected animals suffer liver damage,
- Most will die.
- Animals who recover may be unproductive for several months.

*Treatment;*
- The degree and intensity of clinical signs depends on the amount eaten.
- No cure.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
- Hand pull into disposable bags.
- Use 2,4-D type herbicide, and bulldoze.

**Comments:**
- A shrub or small tree to four metres high.
- Bark is brown with grey spots, thin but tough, comes off in strips.
- Leaves are alternate, spreading horizontally in one plane, usually drooping as if wilted, rounded at the base tapering to a fine tip.
- Leaf margins are finely toothed, upper surface is dark green.
- Hairs lying parallel make the leaf surface rough to the touch when stroked from tip to base.
- Flowers are pale greenish, small and inconspicuous in forks of leaves, in summer.
- Fruits, black round and fleshy.
- Occurs in eastern and northern Australia, mainly in coastal areas, also in moist open forest, frequently appearing when scrub is cleared.
- A variable effect, potentially poisonous at all times, seasonal and environmental effects are not proven, several species apparent.
- Toxicity reports from Tenterfield, Tweed, Lismore and Grafton areas as well as North Richmond, Newcastle and Gross Vale.

Picture: *Trema spp*  
Helen Simmonds. Calga NSW.

Further Reading:
- NSW Dept Ag poster.

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