**Xanthium spinosum**

**Common name:**
Bathurst burr, Spiny cocklebur,

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Seldom eaten.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Moderate risk.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Potentially toxic to sheep, cattle and pigs.

**Poisonous Principle:**
. Hydroquinone,
. Carboxyatractyloside.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms:*
. Acute liver poisoning,
. Loss of appetite, depression,
. Recumbency, muscle weakness,
. Drooping head and ears, sagging of head,
. Respiratory and cardiac failure.

*Health and Production Problems:*
. Death, following clinical signs.
. Some may recover, after many weeks.
. A veg fault in fleece.

**Treatment:**
. See Vet.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. A declared “Noxious” weed in Queensland.
. Use herbicide.

**Comments:**
. A bushy, upright, annual forb growing up to 60cms tall, reproducing by seed, which may remain dormant for several years.
. Leaves are a shiny dark green, and have three distinct pointed lobes, with an obvious pale coloured mid-vein; they are 5-8cm long, paler underneath, and have yellow spines on the lobe tips.
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. Three branched spines occur on the stems adjacent to the leaf bases.
. Flowers are insignificant, appearing in summer to autumn.
. Male and female flowers grow separately, females in leaf axils, and males mostly on the branch tips.
. Fruits are oblong, yellowish burrs, one cm long, covered in hooked spines.
. The plant grows in the warmer season, and produces burrs in autumn, with a three year viability.

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Further Reading:
. Landcare Note. Victoria.