**Xanthorrhoea spp**

**Common name:**
Grass trees. Blackboys,

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Not normally eaten.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Low.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Toxic to cattle.

**Poisonous Principle:**
Unknown.

**Effects:**
*Signs and Symptoms:*
. Constant sideways lurching of hindquarters, (reversible condition).
. Incoordination,
. Fall easily, have difficulty rising.
. Urinary incontinence.
. Weight loss.

**Health and Production Problems:**
. Condition appears to be reversible.
. Fall in production of livestock.

**Treatment:**
. Deny access to flowering plants.
. Recovery in 2-3 weeks in most cases.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. Not practical.

**Comments:**
. Flower spikes are the most toxic parts, but leaves have caused problems.
. Delayed onset after access may be up to 10 weeks.
. Syndrome is known as “Wamps” (sound of cattle hitting the ground), in the NT.
. A slow growing native plant of Australia.
. An evergreen perennial, developing a stout trunk.

. Narrow, green, arching, spiky leaves up to a metre long, spread from the top.
. Small, fragrant, white flowers are carried in candle-like spikes, several metres high, on woody stems.
. Flowering is erratic.
. Grasstree poisoning seems to occur during autumn and early winter, in poor country deficient in minerals, and when protein levels in the fodder are low.
. The leaves are not toxic and the young flower spikes seem more toxic than the old ones.
. Grass trees were used by the aborigines as a source of starch, nectar, grubs, gum for glue, and flower stalks for spears. The lower centre of the plant was also eaten.

**Reference:**