

Cinnamomum camphora

Common name:

Camphor laurel

Palatability to Livestock:

High at all stages.

Toxicity to Goats:

Not known to be toxic.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Not known to be toxic, only to humans.

Poisonous Principle:

Essential oils, containing camphor, dipentene, cineol, terpineol, and other unknown substances.

Effects:

Signs and Symptoms;

. In humans, confusion, delirium, death from respiratory failure, probably from the berries.
Allergenic skin reactions.

Health and Production Problems;

. Berries contain saffrole, which can make birds sterile.
. Roots are toxic to some native animals.
. Oils may pollute water, killing fish.

Treatment;

. In humans, induce vomiting, drink lots of water,
. See Doctor.

Integrated Control Strategy:

. Treat with herbicides in autumn.
. Lop tree, and treat the stump.
. Basal bark treatment for trees up to 10cms diameter
. Spray seedlings and small trees, try Grazon®, Garlon 480®, or Roundup®.
. Goats will eat suckers and shoots, and ringbark trees, and any regrowth.
. Declared “Noxious” in NSW.

Comments:

. An evergreen tree, with a rough bark, and vertical cracks, growing up to twelve metres.
. Leaves are glossy, olive green, alternate and smooth, pinkish when young. Damaged parts have a distinctive camphor odour when crushed.
. Flowers are small, white and of one sex, fragrant, and blooming in October.
. Berries ripen, autumn to winter, and are globular and black.
. This tree was originally planted for shade and shelter. Now it has become invasive and spreads by seed and suckers.
. It is very long lived, and tends to form communities. Seedlings do not grow quickly until the root system becomes established, so they can be easily pulled.
. A troublesome weed in pastures and bush of coastal NSW.
. Extracts have been used as a brain stimulant for epilepsy, and other mental disorders,



Picture: *Cinnamomum camphora* Adex 643

Further Reading:

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. Wilson. Some Plants are Poisonous. 1997