**Abrus precatorius**

**Common name:**
Gidee Gidee, Crab’s Eye, Jequerity Beans, Indian Liquorice,

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Unknown.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Low risk.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
. Potentially toxic to livestock, humans and domestic pets.
. Seed coat must be cracked to release toxin.

**Poisonous Principle:**
. Abrin, a toxalbumen, (heat will destroy this).
. Glycoproteins and other toxins.

**Effects:**

*Signs and Symptoms:*
. Intestinal irritation,
. Problems with balance and circulation,
. May cause dermatitis to susceptible people,
. Conjunctivitis and/or blindness can occur after contact with the eyes.

*Health and Production Problems:*
. Be aware of potential risks.

*Treatment:*
. See Doctor or Vet.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. Be aware of potential health problems.

**Comments:**
. A native plant, found in Qld, WA, and NT.
. Many other spp found in other countries.
. Common in the tropics and sub-tropics of Australia, preferring sandy soil and beaches, also found in gardens.
. A perennial, deciduous, twining vine, with alternate pinnate leaves. The bright green leaflets are opposite on the stalk.
. Small pink, pea-shaped flowers appear in stalked clusters on short stalks, from summer to winter, (in the wet seasons).
. The oblong pods are about four cms long, and when these split open, there are two rows of bright red seeds, each with a black spot.
. The Aborigines used the seeds for decoration, or in necklaces.
. There is also a white seeded variety.
. Seed coat must be cracked to allow the toxin to be absorbed into the digestive system. One ruptured seed contains enough toxin to kill a human.
. Abrin is not readily absorbed through the gut, but will cause severe irritation of the mucous membranes.
. There is usually a delay of 12 – 72 hours between ingestion and onset of symptoms, but symptoms can appear within half an hour.
. Seeds have been used as a unit of weight.

**Further Reading:**
. Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004