**Ailanthus altissima**

**Common name:**
Tree of heaven.

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Occasionally eaten, at all stages.

**Toxicity to Livestock:**
Not toxic.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Domestic pets, and humans,

**Poisonous Principle:**
. Ailanthrin, querceline, saponins.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms;*
. In humans, a purgative.
. Nausea, vomiting, weakness.
. Skin and eye irritant.

*Health and Production Problems;*
. Bark and seeds may be toxic,
. Can cause contact dermatitis in humans,
. Leaves hold some allelopathic substances,
. Contaminated drinking water can cause dermatitis and gastritis.

*Treatment;*
See Vet or Doctor.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. Sheep and goats feed on the branches that they can reach.
. The parent tree suckers profusely.
. Chemical control is effective but can be difficult, as infestations can consist of large trees.
. Cultivation encourages massive regeneration of new suckers.
. Try Picloram® or Metsulfuron® on foliage, or Triclopyr® on basal bark.

**Comments:**
. Garden Plant gone feral,
. An erect, deciduous tree or shrub, growing up to 25 metres high, producing many suckers.

. Trunks have slightly rough brown bark.
. It has a deep taproot, and shallow laterals, from which new stems are produced to form dense thickets.
. Leaves are up to a metre long, alternate, and compound, composed of up to 20 pairs of dark green opposite leaflets, and a terminal leaflet, produced on new wood.
. Leaves have an offensive smell if bruised.
. Flowers are white or greenish, in terminal clusters about 60 cms long.
. The tree flowers at about two years old; the male flowers produce a foul smell that attracts insects, about December and January.
. Seeds are surrounded by a large wing, yellow-green changing to red, in late summer.
. Reproduces by wind-blown seed, root suckers, and root fragments.
. Leaf extracts contain allelopathic compounds which prevent other plants from growing.
. Native of China, now found in Vic, NSW, Qld and WA.