

Brachychiton populneus

Common name:

Kurrajong

Palatability to Livestock:

High at all stages.

Toxicity to Goats:

Low risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Potentially toxic to sheep and cattle.

Poisonous Principle:

Unknown.

Effects:

Signs and Symptoms;

. A vague locomotor disturbance.

Health and Production Problems;

. Loss of appetite, ill thrift and sometimes death.

Treatment;

Be aware of possible stock problems.

Integrated Control Strategy:

. Not feasible.

Comments:

. Rarely poisonous, but if large amounts of seeds are present on fruiting trees, poisoning can occur.

. Stock also need alternative feed.

. A small spreading tree, with a large diameter butt, tapered stem, and grey bark on older trees.

. Leaves are a shiny green, alternate, smooth, and with short stalks.

. Flowers are bell-shaped and cream or pink, flecked with red. The tree usually sheds its leaves before flowering.

. The fruit is a woody boat-shaped pod, with hairs on the seeds. These can be very irritating to the skin, and may be toxic.

. Seeds can be eaten raw or roasted, after removing the hairs. Swollen roots of young trees can also be eaten.

. Found in rocky areas, plains, and on river banks, in a variety of soils.

. An excellent shade and shelter tree, as well as good fodder for stock. Slow growing when young, but drought and frost tolerant.

. Careful lopping of branches will allow regeneration. This tree has an extensive root system.

. The roots and seeds are edible, and the fibres from the trunk can be used for making twine.

. *B. acerifolius*, Illawarra Flame Tree, is a member of the same species.

. Occurs from central Queensland through NSW to Victoria and South Australia.



Picture: *Brachychiton populneus* Wikipedia

Further Reading:

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Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants. 1981

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. Simmonds Holst and Bourke. Palatability and

Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000