**Senna occidentalis**  
**Cassia occidentalis**

**Common name:**  
Coffee Senna, Arsenic Bush, Ant Bush

**Palatability to Livestock:**  
May be unpalatable, but eaten at times of food shortage.

**Toxicity to Goats:**  
Low risk.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**  
Sheep and cattle – and dogs, eating poisoned meat.

**Poisonous Principle:**  
Unknown.

**Effects:**

*Signs and symptoms;*
- Muscular incoordination, stumbling gait,
- Collapse and death,
- Dark or red urine,
- At autopsy, degeneration of skeletal muscles,
- Diarrhoea, difficult breathing.

*Health and Production Problems;*
- Cattle should not be put in situations where this plant is plentiful and other feed is scarce.
- Grain contaminated with seeds should not be given to livestock or poultry.

*Treatment;*
- Be aware of potential stock problems.
- Selenium and Vitamin E exacerbate the problem.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
- Be aware of potential stock problems.
- Not feasible.

**Comments:**
- A shrubby, annual or short lived perennial.
- The stems are erect, woody, with few branches.
- Leaves are pale green, and pinnate, 4-5 pairs of pointed, ovate, leaflets widely spaced along a common stalk which has a depressed knob-like dark gland on the upper side near the base.
- Flowers are yellow and cup-shaped, in open bunches on a short common stalk, in the forks of the upper leaves.
- Flowers in summer, short sprays terminating the branches, yellow and cup-shaped, two cm in diameter.
- Pods are long, plump, slightly flattened, dark brown, with longitudinal stripes along the edge.
- Found in Qld, NSW, NT, WA, originating in the Americas.
- The condition of animals, and state of pasture, influence the incidence of poisoning.
- *Seeds* are probably the most toxic parts,

![Picture: Cassia occidentalis](image)

Information contained in this Info Sheet was obtained from the source documents, and no responsibility will be accepted by the compiler.