**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,

**Further Reading:**
- Agfacts. NSW Dept Ag. 1986.
- Auld and Medd. Weeds. 1992
- Kerruish and Unger. Plant Protection Series No 1. 2003
- Steginga. Poisonous Plants. 2003
- Swarbrick and Skarratt. Bushweed 2 Database 1997
- Wilson. Some Plants are Poisonous. 1997

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