

Eremophila maculata,

Common name:

Native fuchsia, Spotted emu bush,

Palatability to Livestock:

Seldom eaten.

Toxicity to Goats:

Probably very toxic.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Cattle and sheep.

Horses, pigs and poultry are less susceptible.

Poisonous Principle:

- . Prunasin, a cyanogenetic glycoside,
- . Hydrocyanic acid, (prussic acid, HCN),
- . Ngaione, a sesquiterpene.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Trembling,
- . Rapid pulse, deep breathing,
- . Gasping, staggering, convulsions,
- . Paralysis, coma, death.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Do not allow stock access when they are hungry, give hay etc before allowing onto bush.
- . All recorded cases occurred when stock were hungry, or being driven.
- . Wet fuchsia bush is very toxic.

Treatment;

- . Nil, animals die rapidly.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Be aware of potential stock problems.

Comments:

- . A densely branched perennial shrub up to ninety cms high.
- . Leaves are alternate, dark green, soft, slightly glossy, tapered at both ends.

. Flowers are tubular with lips, and single, on curved “s” shaped stalks, red outside, yellow shading at base – some plants are all yellow, with spots. Flowering is usually winter and spring.

. Fruits are small, hard and smooth with a whisker at the end, dark grey in colour.

. Found in all mainland states, in semi-arid regions, on heavy clay soils.

. Leaves are the most toxic, highest in young leaves after summer rain.

. Potentially toxic at all times.



Pictures: *Eremophila maculata*, asgap.org.au

Further Reading:

- . Dowling and McKenzie. Poisonous Plants. Qld DPI. 1993.
- . McBarron. Poisonous Plants, Handbook. 1983