

## *Ilex spp*

### **Common name:**

Holly.

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Not known to be eaten.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Unknown.

### **Toxicity to Other Species:**

Berries toxic to children and domestic pets.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

- . Theobromine, a saponin,
- . Triterpene compounds, and others.

### **Effects:**

#### *Signs and symptoms;*

- . Gastro-enteritis,
- . Unconsciousness,
- . Dizziness,
- . Vomiting,
- . Disturbances to the heart rhythm.

#### *Health and Production Problems;*

- . Affects humans, dogs and cats.
- . Berries are very toxic to children.

#### *Treatment;*

- . Try activated charcoal.
- . See Vet or Doctor.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Dispose of cuttings carefully, or burn.
- . Weed or prune into disposable bags.
- . Do not feed to any livestock.
- . Do not use in compost heaps.

### **Comments:**

- . A garden plant.
- . Trees or shrubs, usually evergreen, grown mainly for their leaves and berries,

- . Leaves usually green, sometimes variegated, with wavy margins, and prickles, pointing alternately up and down.
- . Flowers are white or pink, with four petals, in clusters. Male and female on separate plants, summer flowering.
- . Round berries, green turning to red, sometimes black, in winter.
- . Resents being transplanted, the plant should be pollarded for best growth.
- . Berries, and sometimes the leaves, are toxic.



Picture: *Ilex spp*

Helen Simmonds. Calga NSW.

### **Further Reading:**

- . Copeland. Poisonous Plants in Your Garden. 1997.
- . Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004.
- . Steginger. Poisonous Plants in Home, Garden, and Bush.2003.