**Rhodomyrtus macrocarpa**

**Common name:**
Finger cherry, Native Loquat,

**Palatability to Livestock:**
Unknown.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
High.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Humans, goats, calves, (in N Qld.)

**Poisonous Principle:**
Rhodomyrtoxin, saponins.

**Effects:**
*Signs and Symptoms:*
. Optic nerve atrophy.

*Health and Production Problems:*
. Permanent damage to children, who have eaten the fruits in quantity, they suddenly become blind, usually within 24 hour.

*Treatment:*
. See Doctor or Vet, as soon as possible.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
. Be aware of potential problems.

**Comments:**
. Grows naturally in the rainforest in N Qld.
. Native to Australia, also cultivated, and found as an understory plant of rainforests.
. A large shrub to small tree, with opposite, gland-dotted leaves, 10 – 20cms long.
. Branches are evergreen and very hairy when young.
. Leaves are glossy green, opposite, with small glandular dots.
. White or pink flowers grow in small groups in the leaf forks, five petals and many stamens, in summer to autumn.
. Fleshy red fruits, 2-4 cm long, with the remnant of the calyx at the end.

. Seeds are large and kidney shaped.
. Fruits are considered toxic if eaten in large quantities.
. Only grows in the high rainfall areas in North Queensland.
. The plant probably does not grow where livestock are likely to graze it, in rainforest areas.

. A similar spp. *R. psidioide* or Native guava is similar in size, and grows in similar situations, these leaves are glossy, green, narrow, lance-shaped, and 25cms long.
. Flowers, white or pink, with fluffy stamens,
. Fruit, yellow when mature, 3cm long, fleshy
. Poison information similar to *R. macrocarpa*.

**Further Reading:**

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