**Robinia pseudoacacia**

**Common name:**
Robinia, Black locust, False acacia,

**Palatability:**
Moderate.

**Toxicity to Goats:**
Low risk.

**Toxicity to Other Species:**
Potentially toxic to sheep, cattle, horses, pigs, and poultry.

**Poisonous Principle:**
- Toxalbumins,
- Phytotoxins in the bark and seeds.

**Effects:**
*Signs and symptoms:*
- Weakness and depression,
- Diarrhoea,
- Hind leg paralysis,
- Loss of appetite,
- Colic.
- In humans, dizziness, vomiting, gastro-enteritis, dilation of the pupils, convulsions, slowing of heart rate.

*Health and Production Problems:*
- Death within days, but recovery is more likely.
- Toxic honey from bee hives.

*Treatment:*
See Vet or Doctor.

**Integrated Control Strategy:**
- Control achieved by grazing strategy.

**Comments:**
- A garden plant, a thorny, deciduous tree growing to 20 metres high.
- Suckers are red tinted and thorny, growing in profusion.
- Forking branches are crooked.
- Bright green leaves are pinnate and feathery, with oval leaflets, turning yellow in autumn.
- Thorns, up to one cm, at the base of leaves.
- White and pink, sweet scented, pea-shaped flower clusters in spring at ends of branches, in early summer.
- Fruit is a pod, reddish, flat and leathery, with seeds.
- Bark is dark brown and gnarled, thick and deeply furrowed. Has a liquorice flavour and is purgative, also contains alkaloids which clot the blood, and affects red blood cells, and coagulates casein in milk.
- All parts are toxic, especially bark, wood, roots and seeds, thorns are a skin irritant.

**Picture: Robinia pseudoacacia**

**Further Reading:**
- Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000

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