

Wisteria floribunda/chinensis

Common name:

Japanese wisteria, Chinese wisteria,

Palatability to Livestock:

Highly palatable.

Toxicity to Goats:

Eaten by goats, with little effect.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Toxic to domestic pets, and humans.

Poisonous Principle:

- . Toxic resin,
- . The glycoside, wistarin, and others.

Effects:

Signs and Symptoms:

- . In humans, seeds and pods have been reported to have made children ill with symptoms of mild to severe gastro-enteritis and repeated vomiting,
- . Abdominal pain and diarrhoea.

Health and Production Problems:

- . Not relevant to livestock.
- . Recovery usually occurred within 24 hours,

Treatment:

- . See Doctor.

Integrated Control Strategy:

Be aware of potential problems.

Comments:

- . Japanese Wisteria is a deciduous woody climber, clockwise twining.
- . Chinese Wisteria is anticlockwise twining.
- . In winter, it is leafless, and in spring it bears a profusion of pendant clusters of fragrant, purple to white pea flowers.
- . In summer it is covered with large, alternate leaves which are divided into 11 or so pairs of pointed leaflets, each about 5cms long and half as wide.

- . Leaves are large, alternate and divided, pointed at the tips.
- . Pod is pale green, drying to dull brown, bean-shaped, splitting at maturity; flat, round, dark brown seeds.
- . All parts, pods, seeds, leaves and flowers are toxic to humans and domestic pets.



Pictures: *Wisteria* spp Helen Simmonds. Calga NSW



Further Reading:

- . Covacevich, Davie and Pearn. Toxic Plants and Animals. 1987
- . Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004.