

Aesculus spp

Common name:

Horsechestnut

Palatability to Livestock:

Moderate.

Toxicity to Goats:

Low risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Potentially toxic to all grazing animals, cats, dogs and humans.

Poisonous Principle:

- . Aesculun, an hydroxycoumarin glycoside.
- . Tannins.
- . Xanthophyl.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Lameness associated with limb haemorrhages,
- . Diarrhoea and thirst,
- . Vomiting,
- . Paralysis,
- . Delirium,
- . Death from respiratory arres.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Occasionally sudden death, without any prior signs.

Treatment;

See Vet.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . A tree grown in Parks and Gardens.
- . Do not feed these clippings to any livestock,

Comments:

- . A very tall, spreading, deciduous tree, suitable only for large open spaces.
- . The low branches, sweeping the ground and causing damage to the bark, may give rise to a system of roots which anchor to the soil, and become a secondary tree, next to the parent.

. These trees require fertile, deep, moist soil, and cool climates.

. Native to Eastern Europe,

. All parts of this tree are toxic.

. Opposite leaves, with three to five leaflets with finely toothed margins, dark green above, paler below, on long stalks.

. Produces huge heads of white flowers in spring, giving rise to prickly green seed pods.

. Nuts are a shiny brown,



Picture. *Aesculus spp* Cornell University.

Further Reading;

- . Copeland. Poisonous Plants in Your Garden. 1997.
- . Simpfendorfer. Intro to Trees in Australia. 1992.
- . Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004
- . Steginga. Poisonous Plants, Home, Garden, Bush. 2003