

Gleditsia triacanthos

Common name:

Honey locust tree, Bean tree,
McConnel's curse

Palatability to Livestock:

High at all stages.

Toxicity to Goats:

Not known to be toxic.

Toxicity to Other Species:

May be toxic to all grazing animals.

Poisonous Principle:

- . Alkaloids, gleditschine, stenocarpine.
- . Maybe, cocaine and atropine.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Stupor,
- . Loss of reflex activity.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Loss of production.

Treatment;

- . Be aware of potential stock problems.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Use goats.
- . Spray the leaves of small plants less than two metres tall with herbicide.
- . Basal bark treatment on larger trees.
- . Be aware, fire and manual disturbance stimulate prolific regrowth.
- . Try Starane 200®

Comments:

- . All parts of the tree may be toxic.
- . A perennial, deciduous, spreading tree up to 20 metres tall.
- . Trunk and branches are covered with large crucifix type spines, although some spp are thornless (*G. inermis*).

- . Leaves are fern-like, about 10cms long with about 12 opposite paired leaflets per leaf, yellow when young and deep green in summer.
- . Creamy yellow flowers on stalks appear during October to November.
- . Produces large seed pods after hot summers.
- . Reproduces by animal and water dispersed seed, and root suckers.
- . Plants do not produce seed for the first five years.
- . Used as windbreaks, for shade trees, hedges, fodder trees and gully control.
- . Spines may cause damage to animals.
- . Used mainly in Queensland.



Picture: *Gleditsia triacanthos* wikipedia

Further Reading:

- . Cremer. Trees for Rural Australia. 1990
- . Huggins and Lucy. Weeds of Southern Qld. 1997
- . Simpfendorfer. Trees for SE Australia. 1992
- . Swarbrick and Skarratt. Bushweed 2 Database. 1997
- . Wilson. Some Plants are Poisonous. 1997