

Jatropha gossypifolia

Common name:

Bellyache Bush

Palatability to Livestock:

Not eaten, except in drought conditions.

Toxicity to Goats:

High.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Seeds are toxic to livestock and humans.

Poisonous Principle:

- . Purgative oils and unknown toxins.
- . Curcin a phytotoxin in seeds, fruit and sap.
- . May contain HCN.

Effects:

Signs and Symptoms:

- In humans, burning throat, abdominal pain and gastroenteritis.
- . Nephritis and internal haemorrhaging.

Health and Production Problems:

- . Vomiting,
- . Diarrhoea,
- . Depression and collapse.

Treatment:

- . Give fluids, milk or water.
- . See Doctor or Vet.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Declared "Noxious" in NT and parts of WA.

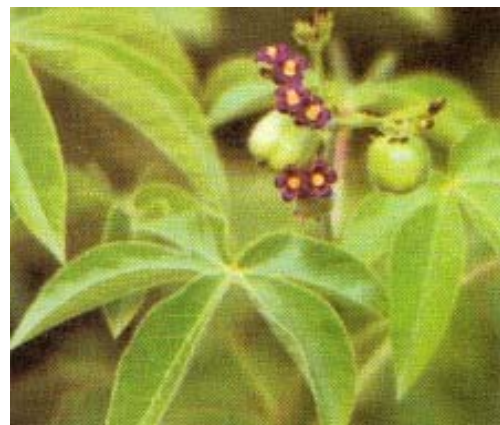
Comments:

- . Introduced as a garden plant.
- . A hairy shrub, growing to about 2 metres tall, with one or more stems coming from the crown
- . Stems are thick, soft and watery, exuding sap if damaged.
- . Sticky leaves are red to purple when young, bright green at maturity, alternate, on stalks.
- . Leaves are deeply divided into lobes.

- . Red-purple flowers with yellow centres are in tiny clusters on stalks in the upper leaf axils.
- . Flowering is from February to May.
- . Fruits are small capsules, green and fleshy, turning dark brown when ripe and splitting to release 2-3 black seeds.
- . Native to tropical South America.
- . A scattered weed, enjoying an arid environment in tropical Australia.



Pictures: *Jatropha gossypifolia*
florabase.calm.wa.gov.au



Further Reading:

- . Begg and Gaskin. National Toxicology Group. NZ. 1994
- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981.
- . Hussey, Keighery, Cousens Dodd and Lloyd Western Weeds. 1997.
- . Parsons and Cuthbertson. Noxious Weeds of Australia. 2001