

Solanum linnaeanum

Common name:

Apple of Sodom, Bitter apple, Poison apple.

Palatability to Livestock:

Occasionally eaten.

Toxicity to Goats:

Low risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Potentially toxic to sheep and cattle.

Poisonous Principle:

Glycoalkaloids, solasonine, solasodine.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

. Immature berries most toxic to humans.

Health and Production Problems;

. In humans - Headache, dizziness, impaired speech and vision, abdominal pain, vomiting, weakness, hallucinations, coma.

Treatment;

. See Vet or Doctor.

Integrated Control Strategy:

. Grub out and burn,
. Seedlings easily killed by cultivation,
. Herbicides,
. Declared "Noxious" in Tasmania, Victoria, and WA.

Comments:

. A spiny, perennial, woody shrub, with downy branches, to over a metre tall.
. Leaves are deeply lobed, sometimes with serrations, dark green but paler underneath, with spiny veins, and rounded tips.
. Long yellow prickles, up to a centimeter long, on both sides of the leaves, and the stems.

. Flowers, of the typical solanum shape, bluish, star-shaped, single or in small clusters, flowering most of the year.

. Berries are green to yellow at first, turning dark brown as they mature. Seeds are light brown.

. Found in country areas near Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne and Brisbane, a few near Sydney,

. Native of South Africa, and Mediterranean.

. Found beside roadsides and on vacant lots.



Picture: *Solanum linnaeanum* agric.wa.gov.au

Further Reading:

. CSIRO.
. Parsons and Cuthbertson.
Noxious Weeds of Australia. 2001.
. Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004.