

Trema spp

Common name:

Peach-leaf poison bush,

Palatability to Livestock:

Seldom eaten.

Toxicity to Goats:

High risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Toxic to sheep, cattle and horses.

Poisonous Principle:

- . Trematoxin glycoside.
- . Can at times, be cyanogenic.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Loss of appetite,
- . Shivering, staggering, twitching,
- . Gastro-enteritis,
- . Excitement and struggling,
- . Coma and death.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Affected animals suffer liver damage,
- . Most will die.
- . Animals who recover may be unproductive for several months.

Treatment;

- . The degree and intensity of clinical signs depends on the amount eaten.
- . No cure.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Hand pull into disposable bags.
- . Use 2,4-D type herbicide, and bulldoze.

Comments:

- . A shrub or small tree to four metres high.
- . Bark is brown with grey spots, thin but tough, comes off in strips.

. Leaves are alternate, spreading horizontally in one plane, usually drooping as if wilted, rounded at the base tapering to a fine tip.

. Leaf margins are finely toothed, upper surface is dark green.

. Hairs lying parallel make the leaf surface rough to the touch when stroked from tip to base.

. Flowers are pale greenish, small and inconspicuous in forks of leaves, in summer.

. Fruits, black round and fleshy.

. Occurs in eastern and northern Australia, mainly in coastal areas, also in moist open forest, frequently appearing when scrub is cleared.

. A variable effect, potentially poisonous at all times, seasonal and environmental effects are not proven, several species apparent.

. Toxicity reports from Tenterfield, Tweed, Lismore and Grafton areas as well as North Richmond, Newcastle and Gross Vale.



Picture: *Trema spp*

Helen Simmonds. Calga NSW.

Further Reading:

- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981.
- . Dowling and McKenzie. Poisonous Plants. 1994.
- . McBarron. Poisonous Plants, Handbook. 1983.
- . NSW Dept Ag poster.