

C - - - - sh *Cephalanthus occidentalis*



Shrub or rarely a small tree, 1 to 3 m tall. Leaves opposite or whorled, deciduous, ovate to elliptic, 6 to 15 cm long, 3 to 10 cm wide. Flowers white; borne in terminal or axillary, showy, dense, nearly spherical heads, 2 to 3.5 cm in diameter. Found throughout the South; in low areas, margins of lakes, rivers, creeks, swamps, marshes, and poorly drained pastures.

Toxicity

Bitter glycosides, cephalin and cephalanthin, are found primarily in the leaves of this plant. Other parts of the plant are less toxic. Cattle are usually affected in the summer and fall when other forage is scarce.

Symptoms

Symptoms include vomiting and muscular weakness. Occasionally convulsions and death result.

Treatment

Administer laxatives by stomach tube.