

The plants should be cut and burned before the seeds mature. Grubbing is considered practical when small areas are involved. Care should be used that the weed is not included in hay.

Purple Rattlebox, *Daubentonia*, False Poinciana

Description.—Rattlebox (*Daubentonia punicea* (Cav.) DC.) is a shrub or small tree seldom more than 10 feet in height. The trunk is slender, stiff and usually crooked, bare below and dividing into several stiff, widely spreading branches at the top. The bark on the twigs and trunks is dark gray to black and only slightly roughened with raised lenticels. The alternate leaves, four to eight inches long, are stalked and pinnate, with 6 to 20 pairs of leaflets. Each leaflet is one inch or less long, elliptic with a minute, pointed tip, dark green above, smooth and rather firm. The flowers, borne in pendant clusters near the tips of the branches, are sweet-pea shaped, orange to red in color, and nearly 1 inch across, on short, slender stalks. The pods, 2 to 3 inches long and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide, are green, turning dark brown on ripening, slightly flattened, pointed at both ends, and furnished with four flanges or wings running lengthwise the pod. The seeds are oblong to subglobose and brown. (Fig. 7.)

Habitat and Distribution.—Rattlebox, a native of Mexico, was originally planted in Florida as an ornamental, but has become naturalized in many areas of the northern part of the state. It is most often found around houses, along fencerows and ditch banks, and in the flood plains of streams.

Toxicity.—The toxic principle is a saponin, the greatest concentration being in the seed.

Cases of poisoning have been reported in sheep, chickens and pigeons. Approximately 50 grams of the plant per hundred-weight are sufficient to induce fatal poisoning in sheep. Chickens may be killed by consuming as few as 6 to 18 seeds, while three or four seeds have been observed to cause death in pigeons.

Symptoms.—The pulse is rapid and respirations are weak, irregular and usually labored in poisoned sheep. Death occurs with little or no struggling. Sheep which recover show diarrhea and depression for several days.

Drooping wings, ruffled feathers, profound depression, general debility, unthriftiness, congested comb and profuse diarrhea are symptoms usually observed in affected chickens.

The period of illness in pigeons is short. The droppings are