

**Toxicity.**—The toxic principle of chinaberry has not been determined. Poisoning occurs most frequently among hogs from eating the green and ripe berries. The lethal dose for a 50-pound pig is approximately 150 grams of berries. The fruit is less toxic for goats, chickens and ducks. While fruits or berries are most toxic, flowers, leaves and bark also contain the toxic principle.

**Symptoms.**—In hogs symptoms occur three to four hours after the berries have been consumed. Loss of appetite, constipation, blood-stained stools, stiffness, lack of coordination and general weakness are the chief symptoms. Death often occurs within 24 hours.

**Prevention.**—Animals, and particularly hogs, should not have access to the fruit of the chinaberry tree.

**Treatment.**—Berries of the chinaberry are almost always found in the stomach or intestines of animals poisoned by this plant. There is no specific treatment. Affected animals usually die within a short time after symptoms are noted; those which survive this period usually do so without treatment.

### Common Oleander

**Description.**—Oleander (*Nerium oleander* L.) is a woody shrub or small tree ranging in height from 5 to 25 feet. When allowed to grow naturally it produces a large number of stems and forms a dense clump, but occasionally plants are trimmed to a single large trunk with a much-branched crown. The bark on young stems is smooth and green, but older branches and trunks are gray and roughened by many raised lenticels. The numerous short-stalked leaves are borne in pairs or more often in whorls of three around the twigs; the leaf-blades, simple, narrow, evergreen, leathery, pointed at the tip, dull dark green above with a prominent lighter colored midrib, are 3 to 10 inches long and smooth on the margin. The leaves usually turn yellow before falling and the leaf-scars are prominent on twigs and branches. The flowers, produced in early summer or all year in the warmer parts of the state, are borne in upright clusters at the ends of branches on the upper part of the shrub. They vary in color from white through pink, creamy yellow and rose to deep red. Normally there are five petals about 1 inch long with a fringed appendage at the base of each, but many cultivated forms with double (many petalled) flowers are found in gardens. The pods, not commonly produced, are long, narrow, cylindrical and paired.