

# Poisonous plant



## Rock/Mulga Fern (*Cheilanthes* spp.)

Noxious Weeds Display sponsored by NIWAC  
(Northern Inland Weeds Advisory Committee)

Rock fern species are native plants, and quite common in many parts of the north-west. Stock usually ignore these plants, but ...

Mulga fern killed 30 head of cattle on a property near Warialda during autumn 2003. Cattle deaths were also reported from Ashford during the same period.



**ROCK FERN** (*Cheilanthes tenuifolia* sp. *tenuifolia*) and **MULGA FERN** (*C. sieberi* subsp. *sieberi*) are similar in appearance but mulga fern is the

dangerous one. If stock are new to the area or if feed is scarce, they may be tempted to feed on these plants. Prolonged intake can be fatal.

**If you have rock/mulga fern on your property keep an eye on what young or new stock are eating!**

Photos & presentation by Les Tanner, North West Weeds County Council. 8/03