



The California Invasive Plant Council Student Chapter recommends that you

DON'T PLANT TREE OF HEAVEN



Photos: Dr. Alfred Brousseau / George W Hartwell / Patrick J. Alexander

Scientific Name: *Ailanthus altissima*

Other Common Names: Chinese sumac, Stinking Sumac

Description:

Tree-of-Heaven grows to a height of 60-80 feet and reaches a canopy width of 35-50 feet. Leaves are alternate and compound. The leaflets range from 2-8 inches. Flowering occurs in the spring and consists of bunches of yellow-green bunches at the ends of branches. Fruiting can begin in September with papery, long, winged structures of a tan-pink-orange color. Fruit can remain on the tree for extended periods and create large amounts of debris on the ground below.

Biology, Habitat, and Spread:

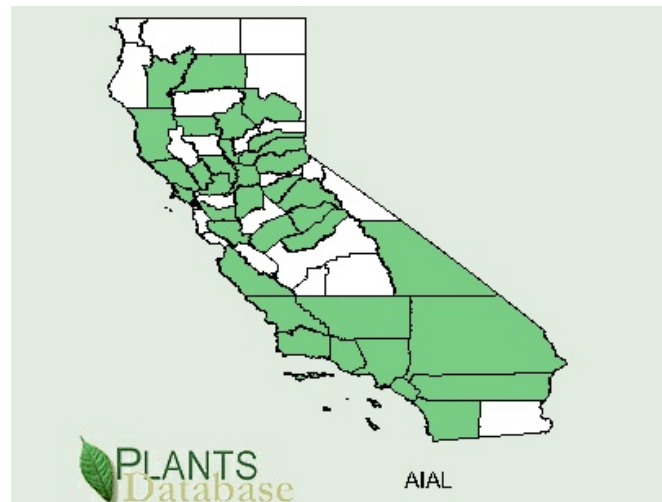
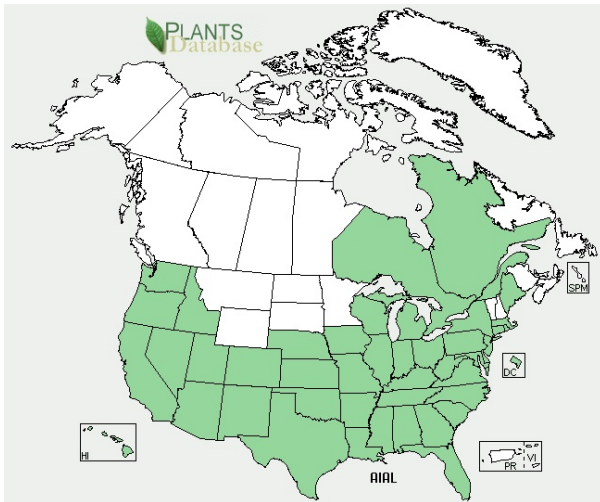
Tree-of-Heaven is a deciduous tree that produced up to 325,000 seeds per tree annually. It is capable of reproducing through both seed and suckers from roots. Both reproductive strategies lead to a very fast growing plant that can lead to impassible thickets. It is often found in disturbed areas, but is capable of growing anywhere.

Impact:

Invades near-by lands quickly due to its massive seed production and fast growth rate. It is capable of displacing native species through competition and production of chemicals that prevent native plant germination. The fruit does not attract wildlife and thus can reduce land value to preservation of wildlife. In urban areas, Tree-of-Heaven is known to grow up through and destroy sidewalks, sewers and housing foundations.

Native Range: :Central China (first carried to the US by a gardener in 1784)

Invaded Range:



Control Methods:

Hand removal: in moist soils, small plants can be removed by hand or with a shovel. Because this plant can resprout from roots, it is important to ensure the entire root structure has been removed.

Cutting: Repeat cutting can exhaust root stores but requires constant re-treatments for several years.

Herbicide: glyphosate (Roundup, Rodeo, or Accord), Triclopyr (Garlon), Dicamba, or Imazapyr.

Alternatives:



Greene's Mountain Ash
Sorbus scopulina

Native to California and Mexico, this tree/shrub has the same form as the Stika Mountain ash, but softer leaves. Bark is shiny, green-brown in color. This species can form dense stands and reach heights of 15 feet.

Photo: swcoloradowildflowers.com



Toyon, California Holly
Heteromeles arbutifolia

Toyon is a drought tolerant shrub growing to a height of 6-15 feet. Leaves are evergreen and white flowers develop into bird attracting red berries.

Photo: mdbrodie.com



Lemonade Berry
Rhus integrifolia

3-25 feet tall, this shrub/ small tree is an evergreen drought tolerant bird attractor. It's white to pink flowers decorate the ends of branches February-May then are replaced with red berries. This is a native shrub to California that requires little care once established but does not tolerate shade.

Photo: S. Dickens

References:

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