

Invasive Species

Taxonomic Name: *Ailanthus altissima*

Common Name: *Tree-of-Heaven*

Physical Description

Leaves: *Large compound leaves, growing to a length ranging from roughly 1-4 feet, composing of 11-25 leaflets which grow alternately along its stems. Leaves also have several glandular teeth around their bases.*

Flowers: *Small, yellow-greenish in appearance, growing near the tips of the tree's branches during late springtime.*

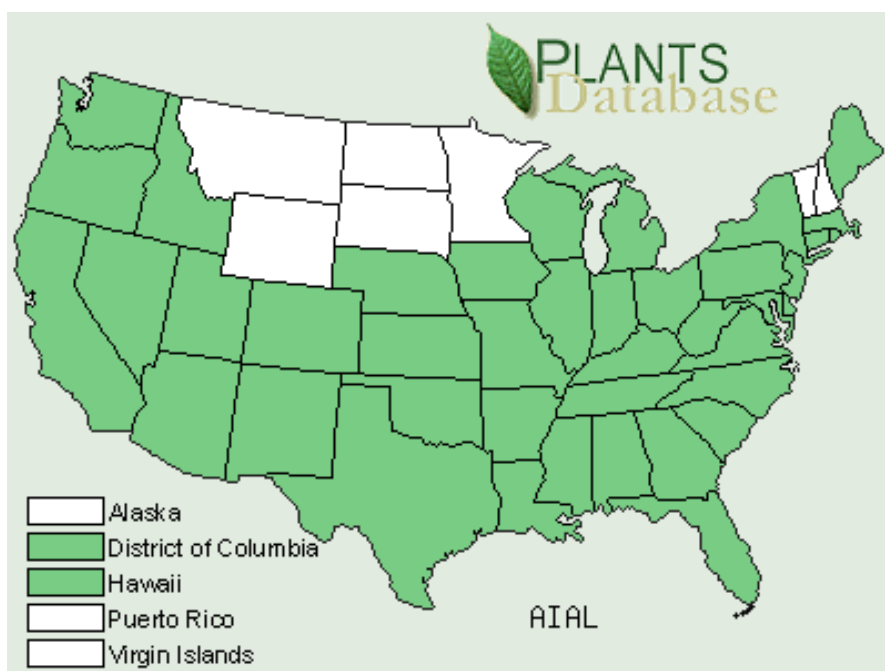
Fruit: *The tree produces seeds between late summer-early fall, contained in papery flat, twisted, winged structures called samaras, growing in clusters. Seed stays on the tree for a very long time, sometimes throughout the winter, before releasing. Produces more than 325,000 seeds per year, which gives off an offensive odor, similar to the smell of cashews.*



Bark: *Usually pale-gray, with twigs light chestnut brown when dormant.*

Invasive nature: *The Tree-of-Heaven spreads in two ways. First, it releases an enormous number of windborne seeds each year, which means it can spread great distances. Second, it has a root sprout-and runner system, so it can easily monopolize and out-compete other plants in a given area. Furthermore, many more new trees will sprout from cut stumps or root fragments, as it is extraordinarily adaptive and tolerant of adverse soil and environmental conditions, making it a great threat to many native species.*

Coverage Area:



Sources:

<http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=AIAL>

<http://www.hort.uconn.edu/Plants/a/ailalt/ailalt1.html>