

Found Across the South Overrunning Fields, Forests, and Bottomlands

The Culprit: Chinese Privet (*Ligustrum sinense*)



All species of privet used for hedges and privacy screens are invasive.

Chinese privet was introduced to the United States in 1852 as an ornamental hedge plant.

Now we know =>

Chinese privet was recognized as being invasive in the 1950s and has spread across the South. Chinese privet forms dense thickets that destroy wildlife habitat. The fruit can be poisonous if eaten by people and the smell from its flower can cause respiratory problems for some.

Why It's a Problem

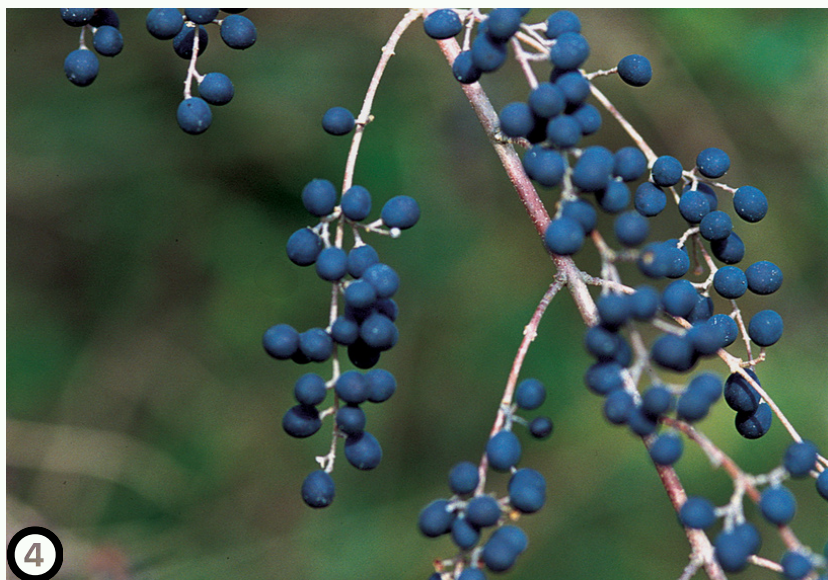
- Grows and seeds quickly
- Displaces desirable native plants and reduces diversity
- Establishes in any habitat-- not fussy
- Spreads far and wild due to birds eating the fruit



What Does It Look Like?



Opposite leaves are evergreen to semi-evergreen and 1-2 inches long. Leaf edges are smooth. The top surface is glossy dark green. Fine hairs cover the petiole (leaf stem).



Blue-black, berry-like fruits or drupes form in August lasting through winter. They are green at first and ripen to the darker color.



White or off-white flowers bloom in 2-4 inch long clusters in June and can be quite showy. Each flower has four petals. The flowers are very fragrant.



Chinese privet has a large, multi-stemmed trunk and can grow up to 30 feet tall. Typically, it ranges from 10-15 feet in height.

How Do I Control It?

- Individual small plants can be pulled by hand. However, all roots must be removed to prevent resprouting.
- Basal bark and cut stump treatments can be utilized year-round.
- Foliar herbicide treatment is best suited for the summer months.



The cut stump method involves cutting down the plant and then applying herbicide on the stump to prevent regrowth.

Additional Information

Blue Ridge PRISM

-- [Chinese Privet Fact Sheet](#)

-- [Resources on Invasive Plants](#)



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