

Suggested Native Fall Color Plants

Acer negundo
Acer rubrum
Acer saccharinum
Acer saccharum ssp. Floridanum
Acer saccharum ssp. Leucoderme
Betula nigra
Carpinus caroliniana
Carya glabra and C. tomentosa
Celtis laevigata
Cercis canadensis
Cornus florida
Cornus foemina
Diospyros virginiana
Fagus grandifolia
Fraxinus americana
Fraxinus pennsylvanica
Halesia spp.
Hamelis virginiana
Hydrangea quercifolia
Itea virginica
Itea virginica cult. "Henry's Garnet"
Liquidambar styraciflua
Liriodendron tulipifera
Morus rubra
Nyssa sylvatica
Ostrya virginiana
Oxydendrum arboreum
Parthenocissus quinquefolia
Platanus occidentalis
Prunus serotina
Quercus alba
Quercus falcata
Quercus laevis
Quercus lyrata
Quercus michauxii
Quercus phellos
Quercus shumardi
Quercus velutina
Rhus copallina
Sassafras albidum
Taxodium spp.
Ulmus spp.
Viburnum dentatum
Viburnum rufidulum

Box elder tree
Red maple tree
Silver maple
Southern sugar maple
Chalk maple
River birch
American hornbeam
Pignut and Mockemut hickory
Sugarberry tree
Redbud
Dogwood
Swamp dogwood
Persimmon
American beech
White ash
Green ash
Silverbell trees
Witch hazel
Oakleaf hydrangea
Virginia sweetspire
Henry's Garnet
Sweetgum tree
Tulip poplar
Red mulberry
Blackgum tupelo
Eastern hophornbeam
Sourwood tree
Virginia creeper vine
Sycamore
Black cherry tree
White oak
Southern red oak
Turkey oak
Overcup oak
Chestnut oak
Willow oak
Shumard oak
Black oak
Winged sumac
Sassafras
Bald and Pond cypress
Winged, American, and Red elms
Arrowwood
Blackhaw viburnum



Chinese Tallow (Popcorn Tree)



Exotic Ornamental Gone Wild

Bay County Conservancy, Inc.

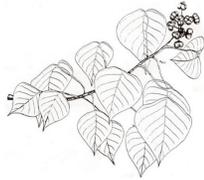
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Chinese Tallow (Popcorn Tree)



The tallow-tree or popcorn-tree, a native of eastern Asia (the same latitudes as the Southeastern U.S.), has long been a popular landscaping choice in this region for its brilliant fall color, distinctive seed capsules, and easy care as a landscape ornamental. It has been used extensively throughout North and Central Florida.

Unfortunately, the Chinese tallow didn't stay in the areas where it was planted. It can be found in natural areas of 42 counties. This is primarily due to seeds that are readily eaten and dispersed by birds. They also float and can be carried easily by rivers, streams, and stormwater runoff to new destinations. Next time you're in one of Florida's state parks or recreation areas in the northern and central part of the state, ask park personnel if they have experienced problems with Chinese tallow; you can bet the answer will be YES!

Some exotic plants, like Chinese tallow, have escaped cultivation and disrupted native ecosystems. They are referred to as "invasive" exotic plants. Invasive exotic plants all share several common characteristics: they grow quickly, propagate easily, resist native pests, grow in a wide range of soils, can invade undisturbed habitats, and have traits considered attractive enough to encourage the further distribution by people. Not all exotic plants are invasive.

Environmentally aware Florida landowners should NOT purchase or distribute Chinese tallow-trees or seeds (as well as other invasive exotics). Florida residents with Chinese tallow are encouraged to remove them. Please take the time to revisit the sites to pull up seedlings as they germinate.

Management of Chinese Tallow

Attempts at managing Chinese tallow suggest that herbicidal methods are the most effective option for control at this time. Tests of simply cutting down tallow trees resulted in extensive root and stump sprouting. Biological control is being pursued, but requires lengthy field research in the native range of Chinese tallow to find insects, or pathogens, that are host-specific.

Before using any herbicide, know and understand what the herbicide label says. Misuse of a herbicide not only is a violation of federal and state law, but also may cause unwanted results such as damage to nontarget vegetation. Before applying a herbicide, read the label!!

Basal Bark Application

Basal bark applications are made by applying herbicide directly to the bark around the circumference of the tree up to 15 inches (38 cm) above the ground. TRICLOPYR (Garlon 4) and a mineral or vegetable oil addition, are effective but are usually not available to homeowners in small quantities.

Cut Stump Treatment

The easiest method of control for most homeowners is to cut the tree and apply herbicide to the freshly-cut stump. To control resprouting, a 20% solution of Triclopyr will usually work.

Spray the root collar area, sides of the stump, and the outer portion of the cut surface including the cambium until thoroughly wet, but not to the point of runoff. No more than 1/2 hour should elapse between cutting and applying herbicide.

Two commonly available products that contain Triclopyr are Brush-B-Gon and Brush Killer. These products are labeled for cut-stump or foliar treatments only.



The best times to initiate herbicidal control measures on Chinese tallow are late spring and early summer after the sap has risen and the canopy has developed mature leaves.

During a normal weather year, trees begin producing seed in late August or early September. If trees are cut at a time when seeds are attached, make sure that the material is disposed of in such a way that seeds will not be dispersed to new areas where they can germinate and produce new trees. Seedlings should be continually pulled by hand before they reach seed-bearing maturity.

Space left in a landscape after removal of Chinese tallow can be used to plant a new native or noninvasive non-native tree for shade, or some other landscape purpose.

For more information contact:

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Mention of a trade name or a proprietary product does not constitute a guarantee or warranty of the product by the Bay County Conservancy and does not imply its approval to the exclusion of other products that may also be suitable. Always read carefully and follow all herbicide label directions. It is unlawful to use a pesticide in a manner that is inconsistent with or not specified on the label.

Information included herein is derived from educational publications created for the public by the Department of Environmental Protection, the Exotic Pest Plant Council, and the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Document SS-AGR-45.