

Japanese Privet *Ligustrum japonicum*



Japanese privet—flowering

Plant: A thicket-forming shrub with a spreading canopy up to 6 m (20 ft) tall. (Similar to Chinese privet except larger.)

Stem: Round, bark light gray and smooth with no fissures. Branches brownish gray with raised light dots (*lenticels*), twigs pale green (sometimes reddish) to gray, not hairy.



Japanese privet—leaves & twig

Leaves: Evergreen, leathery, opposite, ovate, 5–10 cm (2–4 in) long and 2.5–4 cm (1–1 3/4 in) wide. Tip sharp, black-green above and light green below, often with reddish margins. **Petioles** 1–2 cm (3/8–3/4 in) long.

Flowers: April–June. Loosely branching, conical clusters. terminal and upper axillary. White, 4-petaled, fragrant.

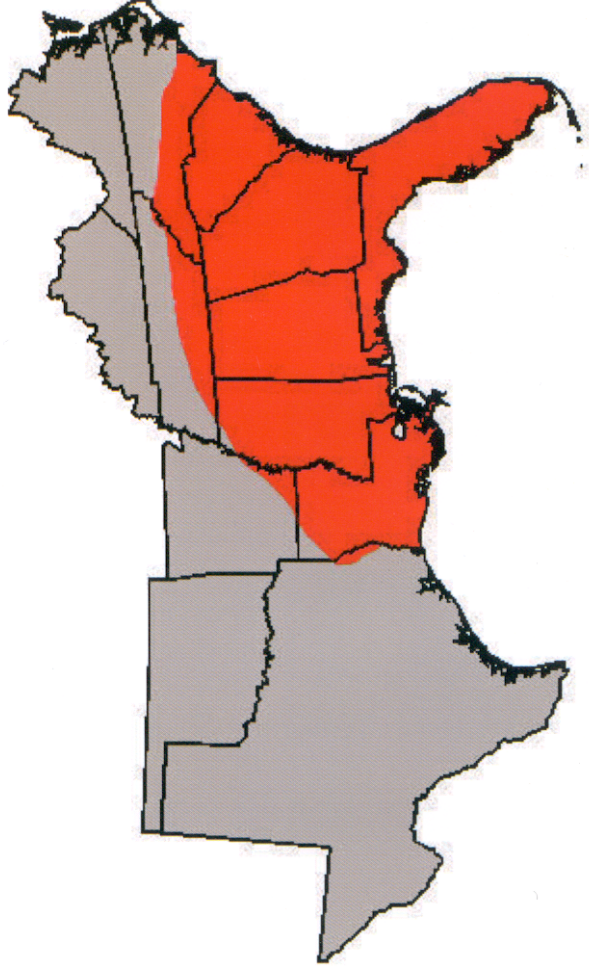
Fruit and Seeds: September–February. A blue-black *drupe*, 6–10 mm (1/4–3/8 in) long and 5 mm (1/8 in) wide.



Japanese privet—flowers & leaves

Range: Locally abundant, Louisiana to Florida, northeast to North Carolina and northwest to Tennessee.

Ecology: Introduced into the U.S. as an ornamental shrub and now escaped in scattered locations.



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