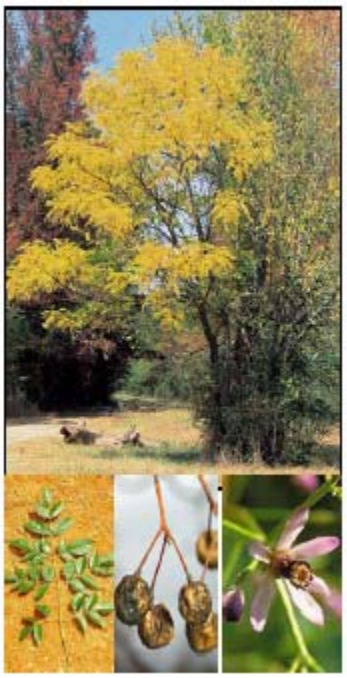
Chinaberry Tree *Melia azedarach L.*



Common Names: chinaberry, Indian lilac, lelah, paraiso, pride of India, white cedar, China tree, bead tree, Persian lilac

Native Origin: Southeast Asia and Northern Australia; introduced in mid-1800s as an ornamental.

Description: A deciduous small to medium-sized tree in the mahogany family (Meliaceae), growing to a height of 50 feet and diameter of 2 feet with spreading crown and branched trunk with multiple boles. Stems are stout, glossy olive green to brown with numerous lighter dots (lenticels) and three-lobed leaf scar. Buds are small, round and fuzzy light brown. Bark is dark chocolate brown becoming increasingly fissured with age. Wood is soft and white. Lacy, dark-green leaves are alternately whorled, bi-pinnately compound, 1 to 2 feet long and 9 to 16 inches wide with a musky odor.
Each leaflet is lanceolate with tapering tips, 1 to 3 inches long and 0.5 to 1.2 inches wide. Glossy dark green with light-green mid-vein above and pale green with lighter-green mid-vein beneath, becoming golden yellow in fall. Long loose clusters of pinkish-lavender to whitish flowers are produced in spring, March to May. Fragrant clusters of flowers yield yellow-brown berries July to January. Berrylike spherical drupes contain a stone with one to six seeds. This fruit is poisonous to humans and livestock.

Habitat: This species is commonly found on roadsides, forest margins, open areas, clearings, and near dwellings, in low elevations (below 1000'). It is tolerant dry soils and semi-shade. Chinaberry forms colonies from root sprouts or sprouts from root collars, and spreads by abundant seeds that are dispersed by birds.

Distribution: This species is reported from states shaded on Plants Database map. It is reported invasive in AL, AR, FL, GA, HI, LA, MS, NC, OK, SC, TX, UT, and VA**.**

Ecological Impacts: It invades disturbed areas and is commonly found along roads and forest edges. It has the potential to grow in dense thickets, restricting the growth of native vegetation. Seeds are dispersed by birds, although they are toxic to humans and livestock.

Control and Management:

- **Manual-.** Manual and mechanical methods of control may therefore be ineffective in controlling the spread and extent of chinaberry because of its ability to send root and stem suckers from underground storage organs.
- **Chemical**- It can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate or tricloyr. Apply herbicides at the base of the trunk or use the cut-stump treatment. Foliar treatment can be used but high volumes of the solution are required. Follow label and state requirements.

References: http://plants.usda.gov, www.invasive.org,
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