



Chinese tallowtree

Triadica sebifera

Overview

Chinese tallowtree is an invasive tree that is native to Asia and was introduced as an ornamental and for seed oil production. It is now spread broadly throughout the southeastern US. Tallowtree is allelopathic and has high levels of tannins in the leaf litter, which can alter soil conditions.

Appearance

A deciduous tree reaching 60 ft (18.3 m) tall and 3 ft (0.9 m) diameter.

Foliage is alternate, triangular to nearly heart-shaped, 2-3 in (5.1-7.6 cm) long with a narrow, pointed tip. Leaf petioles are 1-3 in (2.5-7.6 cm) long.

Flowers late spring to summer. Blooms are yellowish, small, and occur on 8 in (20 cm) long, dangling spikes.

Fruit are three-lobed, greenish, and found in clusters at the end of branches. Fruit mature to black and later open revealing white, wax covered seeds.

Foliage

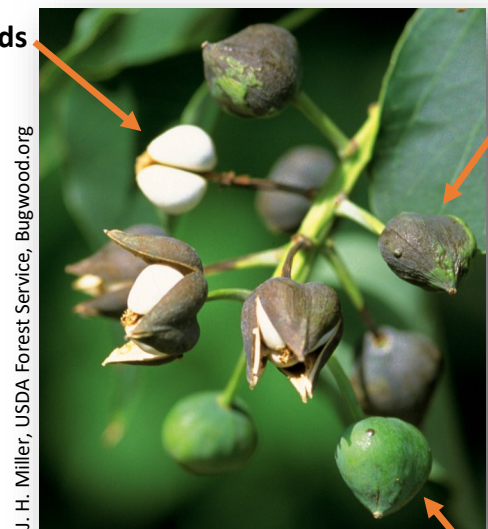


Flowers



Fruit

Seeds



Ripe

Unripe

More Info

Emerging/expanding leaves are orange-red before turning green. It has attractive autumn colors.