



Chinese Tallow

(Triadica sebifera)



Chinese Tallow

Instant ID

- A small deciduous (annually loses leaves) tree up to 30 feet tall
- Leaves are broad at the base, 1-2 1/2 inches wide, tapering to a slender tip
- Small, yellow flowers are arranged on stalks up to 8 inches long
- Fruit has three lobes (bumps) and a waxy, white coating (vegetable tallow)
- Fruit turns brown when ripe and resembles popcorn when it opens

Hijacked Habitats

- Native to eastern Asia where it is farmed for wax and soap
- Introduced to Georgia as early as 1772 and spread throughout the South as a landscaping plant
- Thrives in moist habitats where it displaces native trees





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Plant Particulars

- Leaves are poisonous to many animals and inhibit growth of other plants when on the ground
- Also known as the popcorn tree because of its fruit
- A single tree can produce over 100,000 seeds a year
- Seeds are spread by birds and remain viable (able to sprout) in the ground for many years
- Stumps of cut trees sprout new multi-trunked trees

Population Prevention

- Removing trees from landscaping is a great way to help
- Consider replacing Chinese tallow trees with native trees
- For removal and replacement information, visit www.plants.ifas.ufl.edu

