



Soda Apple

# Tropical Soda Apple *(Solanum viarum)*

## Instant ID

- A shrub with jagged leaves and mounded shape
- Has thorns on the stems and center vein of its leaves
- Produces small, white flowers similar in shape to a tomato blossom
- Fruit is the size and shape a of golf ball with coloration like a watermelon

## Hijacked Habitats

- First found growing in Florida in 1988
- Thought to have come from imported cattle
- Native to Brazil and portions of surrounding countries
- Grows in fields and partially wooded areas





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## Plant Particulars

- Spreads when animals, mainly cattle, deposit seeds after eating the fruit
- Cannot survive in extremely wet soils
- One plant can produce 50,000 seeds
- Estimated to be responsible for 6.5-16 million dollars in agricultural losses annually

## Population Prevention

- Frequent mowing prevents fruiting
- 10 additional states have been invaded
- Prompt removal of plants is the best defense
- For removal information, visit [www.plants.ifas.ufl.edu](http://www.plants.ifas.ufl.edu)

