



Tree of Heaven
(*Ailanthus altissima*)



Jan Samanek, Phytosanitary Administration, Bugwood.org



Annemarie Smith, ODNR Division of Forestry, Bugwood.org



Annemarie Smith, ODNR Division of Forestry, Bugwood.org



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

Tree of Heaven

General	Family: Simaroubaceae (Quassia) Introduced from Asia as an ornamental C List – Control recommended
Common names	Stinking sumac, Chinese sumac
Habitat	Woody perennial tree or shrub Colony forming Found in landscaped areas and disturbed sites

PLANT

Vegetation	Tree to 80 feet tall. Trunk to 6 feet wide Compound leaves 30+ inches long Leaflets opposite with a single terminal leaflet. Smooth edges with glands at the base Twigs alternate, with no terminal bud. Pith is spongy, resembles peanut butter. Leaf scars are heart shaped Bark grayish brown, somewhat smooth resembling cantaloupe skin Foul-smelling
Roots	Spreading
Flower	Late June – July Dense groups
Seed	Single seed in a winged samara. Arranged in large groups Up to 300,000 seeds per tree
Seedling	Late spring
Reproduction	Seed Spreading roots

CONTROL -- CHEMICAL		
<i>Timing</i>	<i>Herbicide</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Mid-Summer to Early Fall	Glyphosate (many) Triclopyr (Garlon 3A or Garlon 4)	Foliar – Best for small trees less than 6 feet tall. Use of a surfactant is recommended. Refer to the specific label for the appropriate type of surfactant. Basal Bark Treatment – For stems less than 6 inches diameter. Apply to lower 12-18 inches of bark Hack – 1 hack per inch of diameter, leaving intact bark between hacks. Immediately spray herbicide solution into the hack. Cut Stump – Not recommended. Suckers will grow from roots. Control may take a few years so treatment may need to be repeated.
CONTROL -- NON-CHEMICAL		
<i>Technique</i>	<i>Timing</i>	<i>Method</i>
Biological	N/A	
Burning	N/A	
Cultivation	N/A	
Grazing	N/A	
Mowing	N/A	
Prevention	Anytime	
Removal	Not recommended	Hand pulling is not effective. Pulling perennial weeds with deep or spreading roots breaks the roots. New plants grow from the fragmented pieces and can increase an infestation.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cut after treatment												
Herbicide												
Veg growth												
Flowering												
Seed												

Use all chemicals according to the manufacturer's label. The label will provide specific instructions including allowed sites, application methods, rates, storage, re-entry requirements and personal protective equipment. No specific recommendation or endorsement is made or implied by listing the above methods or products. 3/2023