

## *Aleurites fordii*

tongue oil tree



**Appearance:** Deciduous, smooth bark. Horizontal to semi-erect branches, often in whorl-like clusters.

**Leaves:** Glossy, dark green, alternate, long petioled. Blades are broadly ovate, 7–33 cm (3–13 in) wide, entire with a cordate base and sharp point or usually with 3 lobes. Two reddish-brown glands occur on the upper side where the petiole and blade.

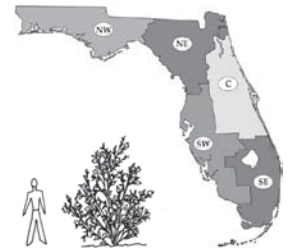
**Flowers:** Petals are white tinged with red and yellow, darker at the base with dark red-branched lines running lengthwise. Flowers range from 2.5 to almost 8 cm (1–3 in) in diameter. Petals range in number from 4–9.

**Fruit:** Most fruits oblong to ovoid, some are nearly spherical; 2.5–8 cm (1–3 in) in diameter, dark green, turning brown upon maturity. Fruit contains 3–7 large seeds, ranging in size from 1.5–3 cm (5/8 to 1-1/4 in) long. Toxic if ingested.

### **Ecological threat:**

Invasive exotics that have increased in abundance or frequency but have not yet altered Florida plant communities to the extent shown by Category I species. FLEPPC Category II

**Distribution:** NW, NE, C, SW



ALEUFORD/ALFO