

Ligustrum sinense

Chinese privet



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Appearance: Semi-deciduous shrub or small tree to 4 m (12 ft) tall or more; twigs densely pubescent.

Leaves: Opposite, simple (on long twigs, at first glance, may appear compound); all green (in cultivation usually variegated, cream-white and green); leaf blades to 4 cm (1.5 in) long and 2 cm (0.75 in) wide, elliptic to elliptic-oblong, with tips blunt, margins entire, and pubescence persistent on midvein below; petioles short, pubescent.

Flowers: Many, white, small, somewhat unpleasantly fragrant, on slender pubescent stalks in narrow, conical panicles, terminal on branchlets.

Fruit: Dark blue or bluish-black drupes, ellipsoid to subglobose, mostly 4-5 mm (0.2 in) long.

Ecological threat:

Occurs in open disturbed areas, but also invades less disturbed upland hammocks, pinelands, river and stream floodplains, lake shores, and edges of swamps and marshes. Has moved into undisturbed relict slope hammock, threatening to displace the globally endangered Miccosukee gooseberry. FLEPPC Category I

Distribution: NW, NE, C, SW, SE



Field Notations

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<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu>