

Melia azedarach

Chinaberry



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Appearance: Deciduous tree to 15 m (50 ft) tall. Twigs stout with purplish bark, dotted with buff-colored lenticels.

Leaves: Alternate, large, long-petioled, 2 or 3 times compound (odd-pinnate), up to 0.5 m (1.5 ft) long; leaflets pungent when crushed, dark green above, often with sparse pubescence along veins; lighter green below, generally glabrous; margins serrate; blade bases often oblique.

Flowers: Small, fragrant, with 5 lilac petals; stalks of stamens united into dark purple tube.

Fruit: A stalked, thinly fleshy, subglobose, single-seeded drupe, yellow or yellowish green at maturity.

Ecological threat:

Occurs primarily in disturbed areas such as road right-of-ways and fencerows, but has also invaded floodplain hammocks, marshes and upland woods, particularly in north Florida. FLEPPC Category II



Distribution: NW, NE, C, SW, SE

Field Notations

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