

Sapium sebiferum

Chinese tallow



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Appearance: Deciduous tree to 16 m (52 ft), commonly to 10 m (33 ft). Sap milky.

Leaves: Simple, alternate; blades entire, broadly ovate, 3-6 cm (1-2.5 in) wide, with broadly rounded bases and abruptly acuminate tips tapering to a slender point. Petioles slender, 2-5 cm (1-2 in) long.

Flowers: Small, yellow, borne on spikes to 20 cm (8 in) long with 2-3 sepals (petals absent), 2-3 stamens or 3 styles (plants monoecious).

Fruit: A 3-lobed capsule, 1 cm (0.5 in) wide, turning brown and splitting open at maturity to reveal 3 dull white seeds, which remain attached for a time.

Ecological threat:

Tends to take over large areas, thrives in areas where the soil stays wet but also in upland, well-drained areas and in undisturbed areas such as closed canopy forests, in bottomland hardwood forests, shores of waterbodies, and sometimes on floating islands. FLEPPC Category I



Distribution: NW, NE, C, SW, SE

Field Notations

SAPISEBI/SASE5

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