

Thespesia populnea

seaside mahoe



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Appearance: Evergreen shrubby tree, commonly to 13 m (40 ft) tall, with young branches minutely brown-scaly.

Leaves: Alternate, simple, with petioles 5-10 cm (2-4 in) long; blades entire, heart shaped (poplar-like), shiny dark green above, 5-20 cm (2 - 8 in) long, with usually 5 main veins from base.

Flowers: Showy, hibiscus-like, single at upper leaf axils, to 8 cm (3 in) across; corolla yellow with a red center, turning maroon by nightfall; stamens united into a column shorter than petals.

Fruit: A leathery, flattened globose, 5-parted capsule, 4 cm (1.5 in) wide, yellow turning black, persisting unopened for a time and bearing several brown hairy seeds.

Ecological threat:

Spreading lower branches making "almost impenetrable thickets" and large fruit crops continuously increasing its dense growth. FLEPPC Category I



Distribution: C, SW, SE

Field Notations

THESPOPU/THPO3

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