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*****NOXIOUS WEED ALERT*****

Tree of Heaven

Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) is an invasive deciduous tree and a "Class B" noxious weed in Oregon. Native to China, it first appeared in Oregon around 1900. Beginning in June, the tree produces yellowish-red flowers and has a foul odor. Seeds are mature by late August and dispersed by the wind.

Why is it a problem?

Well suited to moist areas in full sun, tree of heaven has begun to flourish in the Columbia Gorge and lower Snake River riparian areas and roadsides, particularly. The trees form dense thickets through lateral rooting and suckering, further aided by allelopathy. The trees are prolific seed producers as well, with mature female trees producing over 250K seeds annually!

Due to their aggressive nature and limited success with some treatment efforts, tree of heaven can dramatically affect habitat quality and riparian diversity. Once established, these sites can be extremely difficult to manage and restore.

The plant has also helped advance the spread of the spotted lanternfly, an invasive insect also originally from China. These insects seek out the tree of heaven as a place to lay their eggs. Spotted lanternfly can cause serious damage to grape vines, also.

What Can You Do?

First, make sure you have a positive ID. Black walnut, ash and sumac can sometimes be confused for tree of heaven. Contact your local [OSU Extension office](#) or local CWMA if you need help with plant ID.

Small seedlings can be removed by hand. Trees are prone to suckering, so mowing is not recommended unless accompanied by an herbicide treatment. Tree of Heaven does not prefer shady areas.

For more Best Management Practices, please check out these resources:

[Columbia Gorge CWMA ToH BMP](#)

[Penn State Species Profile](#)

The Western Invasives Network is asking for your help in identifying populations of Tree of Heaven in Oregon.

How Do I Report Tree of Heaven?

Report Online at:

<https://oregoninvasiveshotline.org/>

-or-

Contact [your local CWMA](#)



Sometimes mistaken for staghorn sumac, the difference between the species is clear when in flower. (Photo: Luis Fernandez Garcia)



A young seedling emerges in the "edge habitat" where a forested area meets agricultural lands. These interfaces are crucial resources for wildlife and host to great biodiversity that are threatened by tree of heaven invasions. (Photo: Will Cook)