

Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)



Figure 1.



Figure 2.

Origin and Impacts:

- Native to China
- Fast growing deciduous tree (dioecious: male or female), up to 70' tall
- Spreads by seed and creeping root structure that can easily sucker sprout
- Grows in many different plant communities and disturbed areas
- Spreads aggressively when cut and can create large monocultures displacing native vegetation and reducing habitat value

Know your Target:

Can be confused with other similar looking tree species with pinnately compound leaf structures like CA Black Walnut, Chinese Pistache, Pecan, etc...



Figure 3.



Figure 4.

Figure 3. (Right to left) Size 11, Pecan, CA Black Walnut, Tree of Heaven specimen 1, Tree of Heaven specimen 2 (note variability in # of leaflets per leaf). **Figure 4.** Tree of Heaven blending in underneath the Black Walnut.

Timing of Control (blooms May-June):

“Plants should be growing vigorously at the time of application...”

“Foliar treatments best when leaves are fully expanded...”

“Best when used in late summer to early fall, but before leaf drop.”

***My Ideal timeline** for control is to start early summer after full plant expression of leaf growth and flower set (June/July). Execute full assault with systemic herbicides that can move through the vascular system to kill ROOTS. Then revisit the site again in Aug and Sept before fall leaf drop to mop up...Repeat as needed. The following summer, remove “widow makers” near infrastructure.

Cal-IPC Practitioner Workshop 2024

Difficult Invasives

<https://www.cal-ipc.org/>



Scenario 1



Scenario 2



Scenario 3

Effective Control Measures:

First Step: Get the gear and develop a “Clean Hands/Dirty Hands” protocol with your team.

Drill Injection: for ~1” or larger stems (Round-Up Custom 50%, Habitat 10%, H₂O, Dye)



Drilling (5/16” bit), 1” spacing



Squirt bottle application



Very Crew-able Activity



Cut Stump: Only use this method for stems less than 1”. Larger trees will not be controlled by this method. Gear: Loppers/pruning shears. Squirt bottle with same 50/10 mix.



Foliar: I reserve this method for small multi-stemmed sprouts (Glyphosate/Triclopyr/Surfactant)

Basal Bark: Garlon 4 Ultra mixed with oil carrier like Hasten EA, Pathfinder II (premixed)

EZ-Ject Lance: Copperhead (Imazapyr), Diamondback (Glyphosate)

Lots of tools are available...**PERSISTENCE** is the common theme in successful control stories!

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