

Invasive Camphor Tree

Cinnamomum camphora



The camphor tree is fast-growing, and produces a lot of fruit, which is displacing native species in Florida's natural areas.

The camphor tree was imported to Florida as an ornamental tree and for commercial camphor production in the late 19th century. Traditionally, camphor oil is used as an anti-inflammatory

in vapor rubs and balms and is known to have antifungal and antiseptic properties.

Although these trees are invasive, large established camphor trees do provide stormwater and energy saving benefits in an urban setting. It's recommended to remove young or unhealthy trees to help slow the spread and protect native habitat.



Native to Eastern Asia.

NEGATIVE IMPACTS

- **Spreads easily** from seed dispersal by wildlife.
- **Reduces biodiversity** by disturbing habitats, shading out and displacing native plants.
- **Fruit may stain** pavement, cars and other property.



For more information, call (727) 464-7503 or visit [Pinellas.gov/invasive-plants](https://www.pinellas.gov/invasive-plants).



INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

Camphor Tree






Camphor tree bark furrowed with age.

DESCRIPTION

Camphor is a fast-growing tree with glossy green leaves. This tree is easily recognizable by the smell of camphor given off when the leaves are crushed. The tree has small, round shiny black fruit and brown to gray ridged bark. The canopy is dense and can have a single trunk or many large spreading branches. Camphor trees average heights of 40-50' and canopy widths of 50-70'.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

-  **Remove camphor trees in your yard.** Removal in Pinellas County may require a permit, depending on your municipality. Check [Pinellas.gov/tree-removal-habitat-environmental-compliance](https://www.pinellas.gov/tree-removal-habitat-environmental-compliance) for more info.
-  **Replace it with a Florida-friendly or native tree or shrub.** Live Oak, West Indian Mahogany, American Elm, and Sweetgum are some alternative native planting choices.
-  **Dispose of dropped fruit** found on the ground. Fruit is readily eaten and dispersed by birds

