

Invasive Chinaberry Tree

Melia azedarach



The Chinaberry tree, is an invasive tree that has become a major problem in Florida.

It is native to Asia, and was introduced to Florida in the early 1800s as an ornamental plant and for its potential use as a shade tree.

The Chinaberry tree's invasive nature is due to its ability to reproduce rapidly and spread through both seeds and weedy growth. The leaf litter changes the soil pH making it hard for native species to grow.

Native to Asia.



NEGATIVE IMPACTS

- **Kills native plants** by altering soil pH.
- The leaves, bark, flowers and fruit are **poisonous to ingest.**
- **Reduces biodiversity** by disrupting habitats that native wildlife depend on.

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



INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

Chinaberry



DESCRIPTION

Chinaberry is a round, deciduous, shade tree, reaching 30 to 40 feet in height at maturity. Leaflets are dark green on top and pale underneath with serrated edges. The leaflets are compound with a single leaf on the tip. Flowers are lavender or purplish, fragrant, and appear in long clusters. Fruit is yellow to yellow-green present after the leaves drop in fall.

HOW CAN I HELP?

! **Remove Chinaberry 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.**

Sugarberry, elderberry, geiger, sparkleberry are alternative native planting choices.

! **Remove and dispose of the dropped leaves on the ground.**

The dropped leaves have chemicals that prevent native plants from growing in the soil below.