

Invasive Chinese Tallow Tree

Triadica sebifera



Chinese tallow thrives in disturbed environments and produces up to 100,000 seeds creating a carpet of seedlings under mature trees.

The first documented introduction of Chinese tallow seeds was by Benjamin Franklin, who thought the tree to have many uses. Chinese tallow was primarily introduced for production of seed oil and soap, and then later as an ornamental.

This invasive tree can now be found in open areas and yards. Seeds are frequently transported by birds or water to alternate locations where they are likely to establish. Chinese tallow is on the Florida Noxious Weed List and sale is prohibited.



Chinese tallow is native to China and Japan.

NEGATIVE IMPACTS

- **Reduces biodiversity** by crowding out native understory plants that wildlife depends on.
- **Can be a litter problem** due to an abundance of seeds dropping from the trees.
- **Can cause skin irritation** due to a chemical in its sap. Seeds can cause nausea and vomiting if ingested.



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



INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

Chinese tallow



Chinese tallow flower.

DESCRIPTION

Chinese tallow is a deciduous tree with heart shaped leaves that turn bright red in the fall. It has highly textured grayish-brown bark, and branches that look like they are drooping. Flowers appear in the spring. They are spike shaped and yellow in color. The fruit of Chinese tallow are round and turn black as they mature. They reveal a white seed, which looks like popcorn on the tree, hence the nickname, popcorn tree.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Remove Chinese tallow 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.



Prevent regrowth with treatment and care.

Cut larger trees and treat stumps with herbicide to avoid resprouting. Small seedlings may be pulled by hand. Try adding mulch to suppress seed germination.

Replace it with a Florida-friendly or native tree.

Red maple, winged elm, and sweet gum are alternative native planting choices.