

Invasive Java Plum

Syzygium cumini



Java plum is a large, fast-growing tree that forms a dense canopy, shading out native understory vegetation.

Java plum was first introduced to Florida in 1911 as a fruit and ornamental tree.

The tree was commonly planted throughout southern Florida and is now found throughout the central and southern portions of the state.

It thrives under various environmental conditions, including low wet areas and drier, upland habitats. The tree's numerous seeds fall to the ground, producing new seedlings and can be spread by wildlife.

Java plum is native to temperate and tropical Asia and Africa.



NEGATIVE IMPACTS

- **Spreads rapidly** due to its ability to produce large quantities of seeds that are easily dispersed by birds and other animals.
- **Invades and displaces** native plant species in natural areas.
- **Foul smell** due to rapidly fermenting fruits.

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



INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

Java plum



DESCRIPTION

Java plum is a large, evergreen tree that can reach heights up to 80 feet and an average canopy spread of 35 feet. It has coarse, discolored bark that becomes smooth and gray up the trunk.

The leaves are large, around two to five inches long and one to four inches wide. They are glossy with a leathery texture, dark green in color, and end at a point. A prominent yellowish midrib, or line, runs down the center of each leaf. Java plum has white to pinkish clusters of flowers and dark purple, round fruits.

Each tree produces many fruits and seeds.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

! Remove java plum 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).



! Replace it with a native or Florida-friendly tree or shrub.

Southern magnolia, Walter's viburnum and yaupon holly are some alternative native planting choices.

! Prevent regrowth with treatment and care.

Cut trees before seed is produced and treat stumps with an approved herbicide to avoid resprouting.

Pick up seeds from the ground to prevent new growth and hand-pull small seedlings.