

Invasive Lead Tree

Leucaena leucocephala



Lead tree is fast growing, drought tolerant, and produces abundant seeds which has contributed to it's spread in Florida.

Lead tree belongs to the legume family and produces seed pods that are consumed and spread by wildlife. Lead tree was initially introduced to the state for use as cattle fodder and erosion control. This invasive tree has been reported throughout Florida and is commonly found in disturbed areas. Treatment and removal of these trees can be difficult. *Lead tree is on the Florida Noxious Weed List and sale is prohibited.*



Lead tree is native to Mexico and Central America.

NEGATIVE IMPACTS

- **Frost sensitive** which can cause weakened structure.
- **Rapid regrowth** making tree difficult to maintain.
- **Reduces biodiversity** by crowding out native understory.
- **Invades native habitats**, including coastal communities.



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



INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

Lead Tree



Lead tree seed pods.

DESCRIPTION

Lead tree is an evergreen tree capable of reaching heights up to 60 feet. Lead Tree has gray-brown bark that is smooth with little texture. Leaves are fern-like and made up of smaller spear-shaped leaflets. Flowers are white and look like round "poofs." This tree has long, brown seed pods that are one to two inches wide and contain around 20 seeds each.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- ! Remove lead tree from 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 mowed or pulled by hand.
- ! Replace it with a Florida-friendly or native tree.**
Sweet acacia, buttonwood and lignum vitae are alternative native planting choices.

