

Chinese privet

Ligustrum sinense, Oleaceae



- small tree, up to 5m tall
- forms a dense canopy or sub-canopy preventing native seedling establishment
- tolerant of a wide range of growing conditions, including shade
- leaves are oppositely arranged, dull green, oval tipped and often have wavy margins
- densely hairy shoots, young branches and stems, including the underside of leaf mid-ribs
- masses of white trumpet shaped flowers have four petals, pink or purple anthers and are arranged in panicles
- highly fragrant flowers produce pollen which may trigger asthma and hay fever
- related to olives, but dull purple-black fruit and leaves are **poisonous**
- fruit are eaten by birds, dispersing seed
- abundant seed are only viable for a year or less
- native to China, Taiwan and Vietnam



Control: Pull or dig out seedlings. Cut trees as close to ground level as possible and paint the stump with herbicide. Cutting the trunk and injecting herbicide is another option. Check stumps for re-sprouting and check area for re-invasion by seedlings.

Photos: near left, N. Henderson, WeedFree Trust; remainder, A. Stanton