



Fig. 1 Flowering branch
Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org

Tree-of-Heaven
Ailanthus altissima
Quassia Family (Simaroubaceae)



Fig. 2 Scarred twig
Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org

Quick Reference

Deciduous Tree

Flowering times
April through June



Fig. 3 Dotted bark
Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org

Key Characteristics

Vegetation (Figures All)

- Plant: **tree to 80 feet tall and 6 feet in diameter**; emits **strong (unpleasant) odor**
- Stem/Branch: **branches light to dark gray; smooth and glossy; raised dots becoming fissures with age; twigs stout, chestnut brown to reddish tan; smooth to velvety with light dots and large, heart-shaped leaf scars**
- Leaves: **1-3 feet long with 10-41 leaflets each 2-7 inches long**; leaflets **dark green with light-green veins above and whitish green below**

Flowers (Figures 1, 4)

- Flowers: large **clusters to 20 inches long of small yellowish-green flowers with 5 petals**; **male and female flowers on separate trees**
- Fruit/Seeds: **green to tan; 1 inch wing shaped fruits with twisted tips on female trees**

Habitat and Distribution

Rapidly growing, forms thickets and dense stands in open, disturbed areas; spreads by seeds and roots

Similar Native Species: There are no similar native species



Fig. 4 Fruits on female
Chuck Barger, University of Georgia Bugwood.org



Fig. 5 Young fruiting trees
Joseph M. DiTomaso, University of California-Davis, Bugwood.org

Fig. 6 Small Grove
Ohio State Weed Lab Archive,
Ohio State Univ., Bugwood.org

