

Invasive Plants in Pennsylvania

Mimosa

Albizia julibrissin Durazz.



Kelly Stich, DCNR - BOF

Background:

Introduced to the United States from China in 1745 and grown as an ornamental tree since then.

How to Control this Species:

Planting of this species should be avoided and existing trees removed when possible, with care taken not to spread the seeds of the tree during its removal.

If cut, the stump will need to be treated with herbicide to prevent re-sprouting. Larger trees may be girdled, as an alternative to herbicides. Young seedlings may be controlled through pulling, but care must be taken to ensure that the entire root system is removed, in order to prevent re-sprouting of remaining root fragments.

Range:

Found in most states in the Northeast and southern United States.

Description:

A deciduous tree typically growing 10 to 50 feet high. Leaves are alternately arranged and bipinnately compound, resembling ferns (typically five to eight inches in length). Flowering occurs from May to July with flowers that are fragrant, pink and approximately one to two inches long. Fruit is a flat, six-inch long straw-colored pod.



James Allison, Georgia DNR, www.invasive.org

Habitat:

This species is adaptable to a wide range of soil types. Habitat can range from vacant lots, road sides and other disturbed habitats, to stream banks.



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Biology and Spread:

Mimosa reproduces vegetatively and by seed. Seeds can sprout in close proximity to the parent plant or spread longer distances by water or wildlife. Vegetative reproduction occurs through sprouting that occurs as a response to cutting.



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Ecological Threat:

Mimosa is highly competitive in disturbed areas due to high seed production and sprouting ability. Mimosa has the potential to create dense stands that shade out other vegetation on-site.



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