Tree of Heaven
Ailanthus altissima

Identification

**Leaves:** alternate and smooth with glandular "teeth" at base of each leaf, lack terminal bud

**Fruits:** change from green to yellow to orange to red to reddish-brown when ripe, fruit masses hang off of branches

**Size:** can grow up to 80 ft tall and 6 ft thick

**Smell:** rubbing leaves releases unpleasant odor resembling peanut butter

An Invasive Species

Native to China and Taiwan, brought to North America in the 1700's for ornamental purposes

Tree of heavens are either male or female and grow in colonies of the same gender. Female trees have the ability to produce 300,000 seeds each year

This species releases toxins into the soil that prohibit other species from growing (allelopathy)

Mature trees continually spread by sending up roots, especially if cut down or injured. Cut or injured trees are replaced with up to a dozen new root sprouts

Preferred habitat of many invasive species native to Asia, such as the Spotted Lanternfly

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