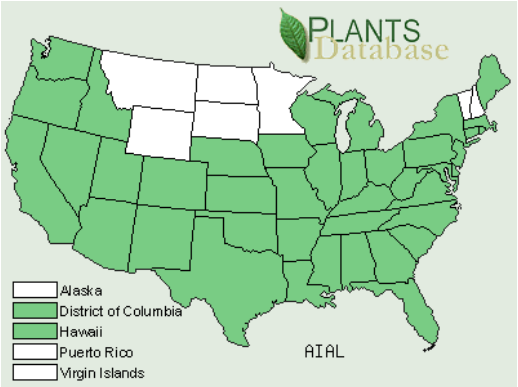
Ailanthus altissima

Tree-of-Heaven AIAL

Chris Evans, University of Georgia, www.forestryimages.org
(NOTE: Small tree-of-heaven plants (center and lower right) growing among the very similar looking, and native, winged sumac (top left and top right).



Voucher specimens needed in ND, SD, MN, VT & NH.

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Tree-of-heaven AIAL

Form: Deciduous tree 25-30 m. in height. Grows rapidly. Twigs are hairless, yellow-brown, stout, with yellowish pith.

Leaves: Pinnately compound up to 1 m long; 11-41 leaflets that are not toothed except for a pair of gland-tipped teeth near bases. Leaf scars are very large, somewhat triangular with many bundle scars.

Flowers/fruit: Blooms June to July. Flowers small, yellowish, often unisexual in pyramidal cluster; male blossoms emit a foul odor. Fruits are narrow, twisted samaras.

Habitat: Woodlands, urban areas, open fields, steep and shallow slopes and closed canopy forest. Tolerates poor to rich soils.

Similar species: The coffee-tree (*Gymnocladus dioica*) might be confused for tree-of-heaven because it has large compound leaves and leaf scars, but it has fewer bundle scars, twice compound leaves and salmon-colored pith. In winter the stout twigs, false end buds, large leaf scars and numerous bundle scars are distinctive in tree-of-heaven.

Notes_____

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Tree-of-Heaven

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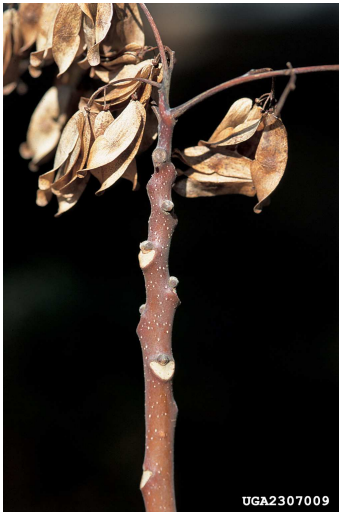

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