Privet

*Ligustrum* spp. *Oleaceae*
Biology

• Over 50 species of Ligustrum
• Native to Europe, North Africa and Asia
• Introduced to U.S. in 1852
• Assortment of ornamental cultivars
• Large shrub or tree
Economic Uses

- Cultivated extensively as an ornamental
- Attractive foliage
- Hedge planting
Distribution

- Found throughout much of north and central Florida
- Commonly found along roadways and disturbed areas, forest edges, waterways
- Major problem in pine plantations
- Infestations in other areas of the southeast – Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, South Carolina
Privet Distribution in Florida
Impacts

- Category 1 invasive species (FLEPPC) for Chinese privet, Category II for glossy
- Invade natural area, floodplain forests and woodlands
- Forms dense thickets that outcompete desirable native plants
- Prolific seed production and can regrow from roots, cut stems
Identification
Mature Plant

- L. lucidum (glossy) is a large shrub (>30 feet) with spreading branches.
- L. sinense (Chinese) is smaller (~20 feet), more rambling with denser foliage.
Leaves

- **Glossy privet**
  - shiny, waxy
  - 3 to 5 inches long

- **Chinese privet**
  - 1 to 3 inches long
  - Pubescent below the midrib
Flowers and Fruit

- Flowers on tip of twig, small and yellowish
- Fruit are oblong, contain 1-4 seeds, blue to black when mature
- Readily dispersed by wildlife
Management

Preventative
Cultural
Mechanical
Biological
Chemical
Preventative

1. Limit planting as an ornamental
2. Remove existing plants, including resprouts and before seeds are produced
3. Prevent seed spread and dispersal
4. Rouge out plants in abandoned areas
Cultural

1. Alternative landscape plants to replace privet
2. Programs to educate homeowners about the problems associated with privet and proper identification
3. Maintain good ground cover and mixture of plant species to reduce establishment
1. There are no known biological control agents available for privet (either species) management in Florida or the southeastern U.S.
Mechanical

1. Hand pull young seedlings, including all roots, repeated pulling for resprouts
2. Cut plants down at ground level
3. Girdling is effective for large specimens
   - Cut through bark approximately 6 inches above the ground, encircling tree base
4. Mowing is effective on small saplings and resprouts, but must be repeated
1. Over-the-top applications for seedlings, resprouts and small trees

2. Thoroughly wet leaves with herbicide
   - Triclopyr – 2% solution
   - Glyphosate – 2% solution
   - Use surfactant at 0.25%

3. Best results applied fall or spring
Chemical - Basal

1. Individual trees, near desirable species
2. Use 25% triclopyr solution with basal oil
3. Apply 12 to 15 inches above ground on tree trunk
4. Wet thoroughly for good control, spray until run-off is noticeable at ground line
Chemical – Cut Stump

1. Individual trees, near desirable species
2. Cut trunks/stems horizontally at or near ground level
3. Apply 25% solution of glyphosate or triclopyr
4. Cover the outer 20% of the stump
5. Marker (blue) dye is helpful
Useful Links

• Floridata Homepage: http://www.floridata.com

• University of Florida Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants: http://aquat1.ifas.ufl.edu/welcome.html

• University of Florida’s Cooperative Extension Electronic Data Information Source: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/index.html
Useful Links


• Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk (PIER). Plant Threats to Pacific Ecosystems: http://www.hear.org/pier/threats.htm

• Invasive Plants of the Eastern United States: http://www.invasive.org
Useful Links


• Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council: [http://www.se-eppc.org/states/tennessee.cfm](http://www.se-eppc.org/states/tennessee.cfm)