

***Thespesia populnea***

seaside mahoe



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**Appearance:** Evergreen shrubby tree, commonly to 13 m (40 ft) tall, with young branches minutely brown-scaly.

**Leaves:** Alternate, simple, with petioles 5–10 cm (2–4 in) long; blades entire, heart shaped (poplar-like), shiny dark green above, 5–20 cm (2–8 in) long, with usually 5 main veins from base.

**Flowers:** Showy, hibiscus-like, single at upper leaf axils, to 8 cm (3 in) across; corolla yellow with a red center, turning maroon by nightfall; stamens united into a column shorter than petals.

**Fruit:** A leathery, flattened globose, 5-parted capsule, 4 cm (1.5 in) wide, yellow turning black, persisting unopened for a time and bearing several brown hairy seeds.

**Ecological threat:**

Spreading lower branches making “almost impenetrable thickets” and large fruit crops continuously increasing its dense growth. FLEPPC Category I



**Distribution:** C, SW, SE

**Field Notations**

THESPOPU/THPO3

<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu>