

- *Tree-of-heaven is a highly invasive deciduous tree native to China.
- *The best method of control is through application of herbicides during the summer.
- *Removal of tree should not be done until 30 days after application of herbicides.
- *Routine annual monitoring and chemical application is important in the eradication of the root system.

Description

Ailanthus altissima, commonly known as Tree-of-Heaven, is a highly invasive deciduous tree native to China. Fast growing, it can reach up to 80' in height.

Ecological Effects

Clone trees can sprout up to 50 feet from the parent plant from the root system.

Female forms can produce up to 300,000 seeds annually.

Preferred host to Spotted Laternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*), an invasive insect native to China.

Tree-of-heaven produces a chemical that prevents the establishment of other plants nearby.

The extensive root system can damage nearby building foundations and sidewalks.

Control

The best way to manage tree of heaven is to control the root system through the use of systemic herbicides. Cutting without applying herbicides will only force more suckering from the plants root system. ***It is recommended to have these applications performed by a licensed chemical applicator.***

For smaller trees:

Foliar Application – Apply a mixture of glysohate (Rodeo), triclopyr (Garlon 3A or Vastlan), and Allegare 90 to the leaves of tree-of-heaven. Be sure to only apply to selected plant material as this is a non-selective mixture and will kill or damage any plant material is comes in contact with.

For larger trees (1" diameter and larger):

Hack and Squirt Application – Using a small hatchet, make downward hacks into the trunk of larger ailanthus and apply a concentrated amount glysohate or triclopyr using a spray bottle directly into the wound of the tree. When making hacks it is recommended to have one hack for every inch of tree diameter. ***Be certain to leave gaps between hacks to allow movement of chemicals through the trees vascular system.***

Location

Monitor a radius of 50' from the location of the source sight of ailanthus for new shoots.

Timeframe

Chemical application should be done from July to late September. This is when ailanthus is moving sugars into the root system. Chemical applications outside of this timeframe will only kill the above ground parts of the plant leaving the roots intact.

It is recommended to wait to remove tree of heaven until after chemical application and developing symptoms (30 days is recommended). Removal should be done mid-November through early spring before the buds open.

Routine check in for potential regrowth is necessary. Continue reapplying chemical applications annually as needed.