

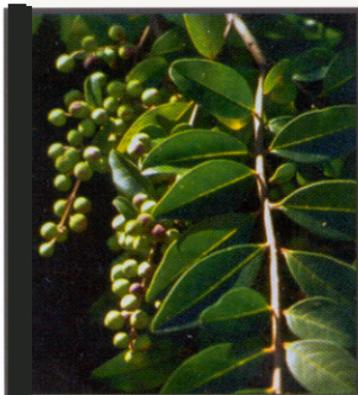
Chinese Privet *Ligustrum sinense*



Chinese privet—flowering



Chinese privet—flowers & leaves



Chinese privet—green fruit & leaves

Plant: A thicket-forming shrub with a spreading canopy to 5 m (16 ft) tall, from **rhizomes**.

Stem: Round, bark not fissured, brownish to gray, opposite branching, increasingly upward. Branches gray to green with light dots (**lenticels**). Twigs short-rusty hairy, long, slender, and flexible.

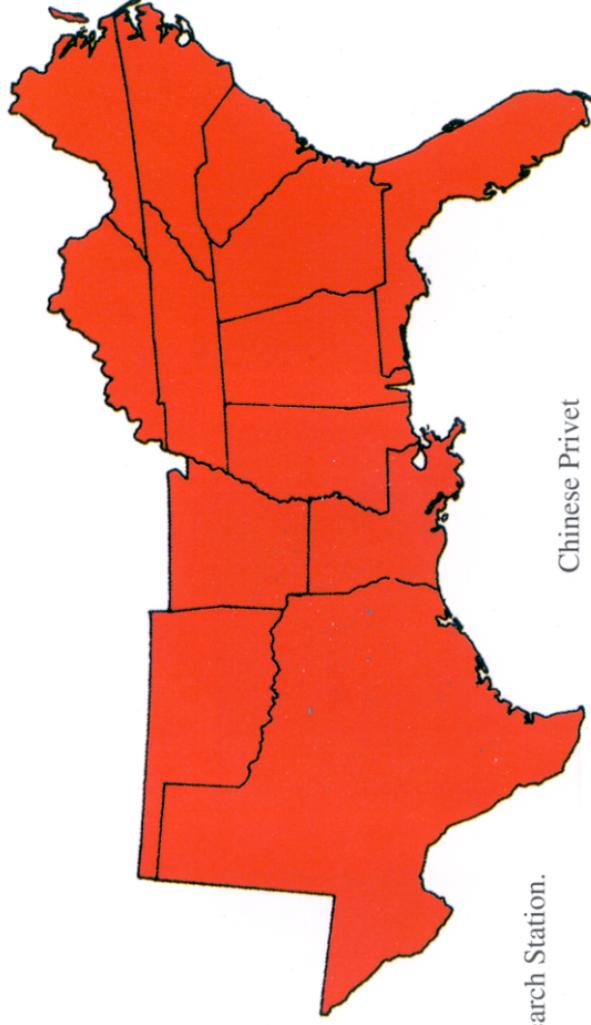
Leaves: Deciduous to semi-evergreen, opposite, ovate to elliptical, 2–4 cm (3/4– 1 1/2 in) long and 1-3 cm (3/8– 1 1/4 in) wide, rounded at both ends, with a hairy midrib beneath. **Petioles** 1–5 mm (1/16– 3/16 in) long, rusty hairy, opposite leaves held at right angles to stems.

Flowers: April-June. Loosely branching, conical, terminal and upper **axillary** clusters. White, 4-petaled, fragrant, corolla tube 1.5-3 mm (1/16–1/8 in) long, roughly equal or shorter than the lobes.

Fruit and Seeds: October-February. Pale green ripening to a blue-black **drupe**, ovoid, 6-7 mm (1/4-9/32 in) long and 4 mm (3/16 in) wide. hanging in dense clusters.

Range: An exotic introduced from China in 1852 it excludes all hardwood regeneration. Very common fencerow shrub thereby gaining access to forests, fields, and rights-of-way. Colonizes via rhizomes and prolific seed

Ecology: Aggressive and troublesome exotic in most areas of the Southeast. Often forms dense thickets, especially in bottomland forests where production. Seeds widely dispersed by birds and other animals.



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(Added photos by Ted Bodner)

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