

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowers. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Helen Hadobas, east of Queanbeyan



Flowering branches. Photographer Don Wood, west of Bodalla



'Seeds'. Australian Plant Image Index, photographers RG & FJ Richardson, Mblagul, Vic



'Seeds' and leaves. Photographer Don Wood, north of Bega



Thicket. Photographer Helen Hadobas, east of Queanbeyan

Common name

Tree of heaven

Family

Simaroubaceae

Where found

Forest, woodland, grassy areas, roadsides, old gardens, along streams, and in gullies. Widespread but no records from Kosciuszko National Park..

Notes

Introduced deciduous shrub or tree to 25 m tall, suckering, forming dense thickets. Bark slightly rough. Younger stems smooth or pitted, hairy, soon becoming hairless, with prominent **lenticels** and leaf scars. Leaves have an unpleasant smell when rubbed. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, 20-100 cm long, **compound**, with 9-41 leaflets each 4-15 cm long, 15-60 mm wide, surfaces hairy

becoming hairless, margins sometimes **entire**, but usually with 1-2 teeth or lobes near the base, a **gland** at the tip of each tooth/lobe producing the unpleasant smell, tips pointed. Male and female flowers on different plants. Male flowers with a pungent smell. Flowers white to greenish or greenish yellow, with 5 **petals** each 2-4 mm long, in broad branched clusters 6-60 cm long, at the tips of the branches. Flowers Spring to Summer. 'Seeds' initially yellowish or greenish, ripening to orange or reddish pink to reddish brown, with a single **wing**. Fruits Summer to Winter.

General Biosecurity Duty all NSW. Pest plant ACT. Noxious weed Vic.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Ailanthus~altissima> (accessed 2 January, 2021)

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