

*Ligustrum sinense* [简体中文](#) [正體中文](#)

**System:** Terrestrial

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Magnoliophyta	Magnoliopsida	Scrophulariales	Oleaceae

**Common name** common chinese privet (English), Chinese privet (English), hedge privet (English), xiao la (Chinese), small-leaf privet (English), Chinese ligustrum (English), Chinese liguster (Afrikaans)

**Synonym** *Ligustrum villosum* , May  
*Ligustrum sinense* , Lour. var. *villosum* (May) Rehder  
*Ligustrum calleryanum* , Decne.  
*Ligustrum sinense* , Lour. var. *multiflorum* Bowles  
*Olea consanguinea* , Hance  
*Olea walpersiana* , Hance  
*Ligustrum indicum* , (Lour.) Merr.  
*Ligustrum microcarpum* , Kaneh. & Sasaki  
*Ligustrum sinense* , var. *stauntonii* (DC.) Rehder  
*Ligustrum stauntonii* , DC.  
*Phillyrea indica* , Lour.

**Similar species** *Viburnum obovatum*, *Foresteria* spp., *Ligustrum* spp.

**Summary** *Ligustrum sinense*, or Chinese privet, is a shrub or small tree native to China, Vietnam and Laos that can grow up to 9 meters tall. Its flowers are small and somewhat unpleasantly fragrant and its fruits are dark blue or bluish-black. *L. sinense* has been reported in floodplains, wetlands and bogs, as well as in dry, moist and wet forests, waste places, roadsides and open stream systems. It is widespread and common, especially near towns, where it is deliberately planted. It may displace shrubs of alluvial forests and remain persistent in these areas. Chinese privet fruits are consumed by wildlife, particularly birds, which often excrete the seeds unharmed at distant locations where they may germinate and become established. *L. sinense* can easily escape cultivation to invade adjacent areas and can form dense monospecific thickets.



[view this species on IUCN Red List](#)

## Species Description

*Ligustrum sinense* is a deciduous shrub or small tree that typically grows to about 6m but may reach 9m. Its trunks usually occur as multiple stems with many long, leafy branches. Its bark is whitish-tan to gray in color and smooth in texture. Slender twigs are straight, rounded or four-angled below the nodes, and gray-green in color. Leaves are opposite, oval, pubescent on the underside of the midvein, and less than 5cm long. Small, white flowers develop at the end of branches in 5-7.6cm long clusters. Its fruits are oval, fleshy, less than 1.3cm long, ripen to a dark purple to black color, and persist into winter (Invasive.org, 2010; Batcher, 2000 Ulyshen et al, 2009).

## Notes

*Ligustrum* spp. leaves are high in phenolic compounds that defend against herbivores, especially insects. The compounds work by inhibiting digestive enzymes and proteins (Konno et al. 1998, in Batcher, 2000).



## Lifecycle Stages

Germination rates for *Ligustrum sinense* have been variously reported as low as 5 to 27% (Tennessee Exotic Plants Council 1996, in Batcher, 2000) and as high as 77% (Schopmeyer 1974, in Batcher, 2000). The pure variegated form is not known to produce viable seeds (H. Gramling, Tampa Bay Wholesale Growers 1998 personal communication, in FLEPPC, Undated). The species is capable of producing more than 2,000 propagules annually as 2,800 fruit per stem has been reported as an average annual production (Westoby, Dalby & Adams-Acton 1983 in DPI, 2009).

## Uses

PIER (2003) states that this species is commonly bought as an ornamental and used for hedges. It has been identified as an important forage plant for deer in the southeastern U.S. (Stromayer *et al.* 1998, in Batcher, 2000).

## Habitat Description

*Ligustrum sinense* commonly forms dense thickets in fields or in the understory of forests (Invasive.org, 2010). It grows in a variety of forests, shrublands, woodlands, flood plains, wetlands, and coastal areas, but also has a particular affinity for disturbed or urbanized locations like cleared fields or along roadsides (Batcher, 2000; Greene & Blossey, 2009; Williams & Minogue, 2008; PIER, 2010). Occurrences have been recorded from lowland areas and up to 1830 meters elevation (Williams & Minogue, 2008; PIER, 2010). *L. sinense* tolerates a wide range of soil conditions and is shade tolerant, and tolerates, or even benefits from mutilation, cultivation, or fire (PIER, 2005).

## Reproduction

*Ligustrum sinense* is a perennial shrub that grows readily from seed or from root and stump sprouts. It may escape from cultivation when the fruits are consumed by wildlife, particularly birds, which often excrete the seeds unharmed at distant locations where they may germinate and become established (Batcher, 2000). An average square meter of canopy produces about 1,300 fruits (Burrows and Kohen 1986, in FLEPPC, Undated)

## General Impacts

*Ligustrum sinense* is extremely invasive and forms dense monospecific layers in forest interiors and edges that outcompete, displace and shade out native vegetation (Batcher, 2000; DPI, 2009; Invasive.org, 2010; Morris *et al.*, 2002; Zhang, 2009). It reduces native plant abundance and diversity (Green & Blosey, 2009; Wilcox & Beck, 2007). These reductions in species richness and overstory reproduction associated with *L. sinense* could impact long-term forest structure and ecosystem function (Loewenstein & Loewenstein, 2005). It has been found to have toxic effects on animals and macroinvertebrates (DPI, 2009b; PIER, 2005), and one study observed that beetle richness increased greatly after its removal (Ulyshen *et al.*, 2009). It is also believed to have a negative impact on water quality (DPI, 2009b).

## Management Info

Restoration potential is likely to be lowest where *Ligustrum* spp. occur in high densities and there is a high likelihood of continued dispersal of seeds into the restoration area. If attacked during the early stages of colonization, the potential for successful management is high.

Manual and mechanical, environmental/cultural, and chemical methods are all useful in varying degrees in controlling *Ligustrum* spp.

For details on preventative measures, chemical, physical, biological control options, please see [management information](#).

## Pathway

*Ligustrum* spp. have been cultivated and developed into several horticultural varieties, which were introduced to North America and New Zealand as a common hedge in landscaping (Batcher, 2000).



# GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES DATABASE

FULL ACCOUNT FOR: *Ligustrum sinense*

**Principal source:** [Element Stewardship Abstract for \*Ligustrum\* spp. \(Batcher, 2000\) Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk \(PIER\), 2010. \*Ligustrum sinense\* Lour., Oleaceae Department of Primary Industries, Victoria, 2009. Impact Assessment - Small-leaf Privet \(\*Ligustrum sinense\*\) in Victoria](#)

**Compiler:** National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) & IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG)

Updates with support from the Overseas Territories Environmental Programme (OTEP) project XOT603, a joint project with the Cayman Islands Government - Department of Environment

**Review:** Anon

**Publication date:** 2010-08-20

## ALIEN RANGE

[1] AMERICAN SAMOA  
[3] AUSTRALIA  
[1] FIJI  
[1] GUAM  
[4] NEW ZEALAND  
[1] PUERTO RICO  
[2] SAMOA  
[1] TONGA

[1] ARGENTINA  
[1] BERMUDA  
[1] GUADELOUPE  
[2] NEW CALEDONIA  
[1] NORFOLK ISLAND  
[1] REUNION  
[1] SOUTH AFRICA  
[21] UNITED STATES

**Red List assessed species 6: CR = 1; VU = 1; LR/nt = 1; LR/lc = 3;**

[Sarracenia alata](#) LR/nt  
[Sarracenia leucophylla](#) VU  
[Sarracenia oreophila](#) CR

[Sarracenia flava](#) LR/lc  
[Sarracenia minor](#) LR/lc  
[Sarracenia psittacina](#) LR/lc

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

62 references found for *Ligustrum sinense*

### Management information

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**Summary:** Detailed report on introduction, origin, description and control.

Available from: <http://envbop.govt.nz/publications/PDF/FactSheets/PP1098.pdf> [Accessed 29 May 2003].

[Batcher M.S. 2000. Element Stewardship Abstract for \*Ligustrum\* spp. The Nature Conservancy.](#)

**Summary:** An Element Stewardship Abstract containing detail report on description, distribution, dispersal methods, impacts, habitats and control.

Available from: [http://www.invasive.org/weedcd/pdfs/tncweeds/ligu\\_sp.pdf](http://www.invasive.org/weedcd/pdfs/tncweeds/ligu_sp.pdf) [Accessed 19 July 2010].

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[Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants, University of Florida \(IFAS\), 2010. Chinese privet: \*Ligustrum sinense\*](#)

**Summary:** Available from: <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/node/231> [Accessed 10 March 2010]

[Daehler, C.C.; Denslow, J.S.; Ansari, S and Huang-Chi, K., 2004. A Risk-Assessment System for Screening Out Invasive Pest Plants from Hawaii and Other Pacific Islands. Conservation Biology Volume 18 Issue 2 Page 360.](#)

**Summary:** A study on the use of a screening system to assess proposed plant introductions to Hawaii or other Pacific Islands and to identify high-risk species used in horticulture and forestry which would greatly reduce future pest-plant problems and allow entry of most nonpests.

[Department of Primary Industries, Victoria, 2009. Impact Assessment - Small-leaf Privet \(\*Ligustrum sinense\*\) in Victoria](#)

**Summary:** Available from: [http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/impact\\_small\\_leaved\\_privet](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/impact_small_leaved_privet) [Accessed 10 March 2010]

[Department of Primary Industries, Victoria, 2009. Invasiveness Assessment - Small-leaf Privet \(\*Ligustrum sinense\*\) in Victoria](#)

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FULL ACCOUNT FOR: *Ligustrum sinense*

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Hanula, James L.; Scott Horn, and John W. Taylor, 2009. Chinese Privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) Removal and its Effect on Native Plant Communities of Riparian Forests. *Invasive Plant Science and Management* 2:292-300

**Summary:** Available from: [http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/ja/ja\\_hanula018.pdf](http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/ja/ja_hanula018.pdf) [Accessed 10 March 2010]

Harrington, Timothy B.; Miller, James H., 2005. Effects of application rate, timing, and formulation of glyphosate and triclopyr on control of Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*). *Weed Technology*. 19(1). JAN-MAR 2005. 47-54.

IUCN 2010. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2010.4.

**Summary:** The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species provides taxonomic, conservation status and distribution information on taxa that have been globally evaluated using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria. This system is designed to determine the relative risk of extinction, and the main purpose of the IUCN Red List is to catalogue and highlight those taxa that are facing a higher risk of global extinction (i.e. those listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable). The IUCN Red List also includes information on taxa that are categorized as Extinct or Extinct in the Wild; on taxa that cannot be evaluated because of insufficient information (i.e. are Data Deficient); and on taxa that are either close to meeting the threatened thresholds or that would be threatened were it not for an ongoing taxon-specific conservation programme (i.e. are Near Threatened).

Available from: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/> [Accessed 25 May 2011]

IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG), 2010. A Compilation of Information Sources for Conservation Managers.

**Summary:** This compilation of information sources can be sorted on keywords for example: Baits & Lures, Non Target Species, Eradication, Monitoring, Risk Assessment, Weeds, Herbicides etc. This compilation is at present in Excel format, this will be web-enabled as a searchable database shortly. This version of the database has been developed by the IUCN SSC ISSG as part of an Overseas Territories Environmental Programme funded project XOT603 in partnership with the Cayman Islands Government - Department of Environment. The compilation is a work under progress, the ISSG will manage, maintain and enhance the database with current and newly published information, reports, journal articles etc.

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**Summary:** Available from: [http://www.hear.org/pier/wra/pacific/ligustrum\\_sinense\\_htmlwra.htm](http://www.hear.org/pier/wra/pacific/ligustrum_sinense_htmlwra.htm) [Accessed 10 March 2010]

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**Summary:** Discusses impacts species has had on a Reserve in Australia. Examines chemical and physical control methods and how control has been reached.

PIER (Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk), 2003. *Ligustrum* spp.

**Summary:** Ecology, synonyms, common names, distributions (Pacific as well as global), management and impact information.

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# GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES DATABASE

FULL ACCOUNT FOR: *Ligustrum sinense*

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[ITIS \(Integrated Taxonomic Information System\), 2005. Online Database \*Ligustrum sinense\*](#)

**Summary:** An online database that provides taxonomic information, common names, synonyms and geographical jurisdiction of a species. In addition links are provided to retrieve biological records and collection information from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) Data Portal and bioscience articles from BioOne journals.

Available from:

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# GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES DATABASE

FULL ACCOUNT FOR: *Ligustrum sinense*

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[USF-AFVP \(University of South Florida - Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants\) 2003. Institute for Systematic Botany: \*Dioscorea oppositifolia\*](http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu/main.asp?plantID=1935)

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