



Amur Corktree *Phellodendron amurense* Rupr.

Native Origin: Eastern Asia (northern China, Manchuria, Korea, Ussuri, Amur, and Japan); introduced as an ornamental

Description: A deciduous tree in the citrus family (Rutaceae) that reaches heights of 50 feet. Mature specimens have short dark gray trunks with deeply ridged and corky bark, and widely spreading crowns. The leaves are dark green above, much paler below, yellow in the fall, and 11 to 14 inches long. The pinnately compound leaves consist of 5-13 slender papery leaflets. Upright cluster of small maroon to yellow-green flowers 2 to 3 inches long, appear in late spring to early summer. Clusters of fleshy, black berries 3/8 inch in diameter remain on the trees into the late fall and winter. Each small berry is contains five seeds.

Habitat: It is adaptable to various environmental conditions in USDA zones 4-7. It is heat-loving, cold and drought tolerant, adaptable to clay to light sand soil types and has no serious pest problems. In areas with ample moisture and good soil, the tree produces large amounts of seed. It can be found in forested areas or along rivers.



Distribution: This species is reported from states shaded on Plants Database map. It is reported invasive in IL, NY, PA, VA, and North of Philadelphia (in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania). It has been observed escaping into native hardwood forests in New York as well.

Ecological Impacts: This tree is demonstrating invasive characteristics in suburban and urban fringe forests. It escapes intended plantings to invade and displace native hardwood forest. Note: only female plants have potential to become invasive.

Control and Management: Plant only male trees, practice disturbance prevention

- **Manual-** Hand pull seedlings, focus on reducing or stopping fruit production and spread
- **Chemical-** It can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate. Follow label and state requirements.
- **Biocontrol:** Natural enemies of Amur cork tree include four fungi and nine Lepidoptera.

References:

<http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/alert/alrtphel.html>, <http://plants.usda.gov>
www.cnr.vt.edu/dendro/dendrology/syllabus/factsheet.cfm?ID=356, www.forestryimages.org
www.invasive.org/weeds/asian/phellodendron.pdf, Invasive Plants of Asian Origin Established in the United States and their Natural Enemies, USDS FS FHTET 2004-05, p. 131-132