



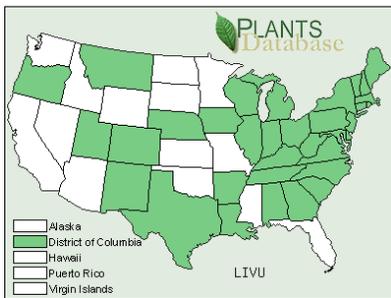
European Privet

Ligustrum vulgare L.

Common Names: European privet, common privet, wild privet

Native Origin: Europe and northern Africa

Description: Perennial shrub with spreading branches in the olive family (Oleaceae) growing upright and spreading to a height and width of 12-15 feet. Leaves are oblong-ovate to lanceolate and 1.5-2.5 inches long. Small white flowers grow in clusters at the end of stems and bloom from June to July. Fruits are small shiny blue-black berries that are borne in terminal clusters and mature during September to October. Mature plants can produce hundreds of fruits per plant per year. Seeds are dispersed by birds and other wildlife that eat the fruits and excrete seeds undamaged. Plants reproduce both vegetatively and by seed.



Habitat: It is located in bottomlands, mesic and riparian forests, old fields, primary woodlands, closed canopy forests, calcareous glades and barrens, deciduous cove forests, grassland, roadsides, fence rows, windbreaks and other areas with disturbed soil. It grows well in high light, low nutrient soils, but will tolerate lower light levels if nutrients are increased.

Distribution: This species is reported from states shaded on Plants Database map. It is reported invasive in CT, DC, DE, IN, KY, LA, MD, MI, MS, NJ, OH, OR, PA, SC, TN, VA, VT, WA, WI, and WV.

Ecological Impacts: This deciduous, semi-evergreen, or evergreen shrub has been widely planted as hedges. It has escaped cultivation to invade adjacent areas. This aggressive invasive plant forms dense tickets particularly in bottom-land forests and along fencerows, thus gaining access to forests, fields, and right-of-ways to out-compete native vegetation.

Control and Management:



- **Manual-** Small plants can be dug up. Mowing and cutting are appropriate for small populations or environmentally sensitive areas where herbicides cannot be used. Stems should be cut at least once per growing season as close to ground level as possible. Repeated mowing or cutting will control the spread.
- **Chemical-** It can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate or triclopyr. Follow label and state requirements.

References: <http://plants.usda.gov>, www.nps.gov/plants/alien, www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/shrub/ligspp/all.html, www.hort.uconn.edu/Plants/l/ligvul/ligvul1.html Czarapata, Elizabeth J. Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest, An Illustrated Guide to their Identification and Control, 2005 p. 91-92, www.invasive.org, http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/esadocs/documnts/ligu_sp.html, Miller, James Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forests, A Field Guide for Identification and Control, USDA FS SRS-62, p.21