

AMUR CORKTREE

Phellodendron amurense

Status in Maine: not yet detected



Ansel Oommen, Bugwood.org | 5518494

Description: Deciduous, fast-growing tree that reaches reproductive maturity in as little as 3-5 years. 30-45' tall, with spreading branches, short trunk, and thick corky bark; inner bark is bright yellow. **Leaves:** Pinnately compound, opposite to sub-opposite, 10-15" long, each with 5-11 leaflets. Leaflets are oval, pointed, with entire, wavy margins. Crushed foliage smells like turpentine. **Flowers/ seeds:** Dioecious; clusters of inconspicuous yellow-green flowers appear on trees in early summer. **Fruit:** Female trees develop round green drupes that turn black when mature; $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter. Each drupe contains 5 seeds.

Native range: Eastern Asia. **How arrived in U.S.:** As an ornamental.

Reproduction: By seed. Birds are the main dispersers. Seeds are thought to remain viable in the soil for several years. Stumps vigorously re-sprout and attain flower producing capacity quickly.

Habitat: Prefers sun and moist, well-drained soils but can tolerate a range of conditions. It can invade the shady understory of oak dominated forests. Seedlings readily establish under parent trees; dense stands > 36 trees per acre have been observed.

Similar native species: Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*) and staghorn sumac (*Rhus hirta*) both have elongated, pinnately compound leaves, but both differ by having alternate leaf orientation and leaflets that are finely serrate.



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Similar non-native species: Tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) has alternate, pinnately compound leaves; leaflets have a couple of blunt teeth at the base. See entry for tree of heaven in this guide.

Control methods: Seedlings can be pulled up; saplings can be pulled with a weed lever or cut, but re-sprouting will occur so follow-up will be necessary. Prioritize eradication of female trees. Larger trees can be cut, but will also re-sprout unless the cut stump is immediately treated with concentrated herbicide (glyphosate or triclopyr). Repeated follow-up cutting can control re-sprouting from cut stumps. Foliar spray can also be effective for seedlings, short saplings, or re-sprouts (glyphosate or triclopyr), as long as you can reach the top of the plant. For stems up to about 4-6" diameter, basal bark treatment can be effective at any time of year (spray lower 18-24" of trunk with triclopyr in penetrating oil).



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