

Impacts: There are various types of privets in the United States: European privet is scattered throughout the U.S.; Chinese and Japanese privet is found in the Southeast and Midwest; and border privet is found throughout most of the Northwest. Privets are aggressively growing plants that can invade any environment, including floodplains, forests, wetlands, and fields. They can out-compete native competitors by forming dense thickets. Due to privets being shade tolerant, they are able to form dense monocultures in forests and out-shade native vegetation.



Suspected Means of Introduction: Privets were introduced to the United States as early as the 1700's and are widely used as garden plants and ornamental hedges. European privet was introduced sometime during the 1700's, with the other species being introduced much later (border privet in 1860, Japanese privet in 1945, and Chinese privet in 1952). After escaping cultivation, these species established themselves throughout the eastern part of the country.

BioBullies

Privets

Border (*Ligustrum obtusifolium*)

Chinese (*L. sinense*)

European (*L. vulgare*)

Japanese (*L. japonicum*)



Description: Privets are semi-evergreen to evergreen shrubs that can grow up to 15 feet tall. The stems are smooth, light gray to tan and usually occur in multiples, with many long, leafy branches forming right angles off the stems. The leaves of privets are opposite, oval to elliptical-shaped on short stalks and can grow up to 1 1/2 inches long. Privet leaves contain a phenolic compound that protects against damage from insects. Small, white flowers are very abundant and occur in clusters at the ends of the branches. The fruits of privets are small, blue-black berries that are produced during late summer to early fall.

Native Range:
Europe, China, Japan,
and Korea

**Resources for
Identification and
Control of Privets**

Headwaters Invasive
Plant Partnership

University of Illinois
Extension - Champaign,
Ford, Iroquois, and
Vermilion Counties

Plant Profile Database -
USDA

Weed of the Week - USDA
Forest Service

Midwest Invasive Plant
Network



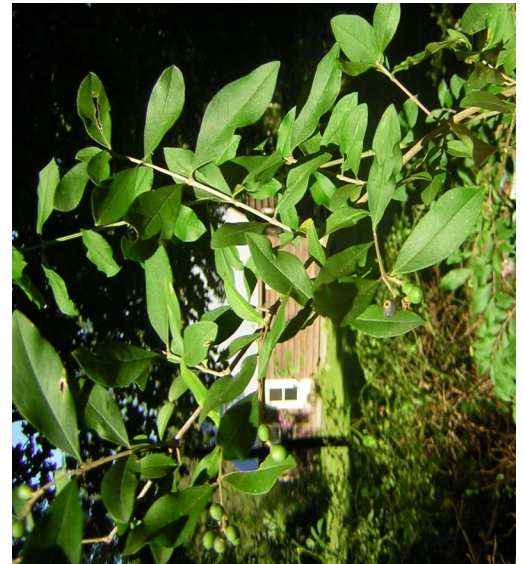
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Habitat: Privets can invade floodplains, forests, wetlands and fields. They prefer moist open lands, but can also be found in highly shaded or dry areas and in almost every soil type.

Biology: Privets can reproduce through seed dispersion by birds and other wildlife that eat the fruits, as well as through stumps and stump sprouts.

Control Methods: Privets can be controlled by either mechanical or chemical means. Small plants can be dug out, but it is important to remove the entire root system. For larger plants, leaves can be sprayed with herbicide (such as glyphosate or triclopyr), or herbicide can be painted on freshly cut stumps. When stems are too tall for a foliar spray, Garlon® 4 can also be used as a basal bark treatment.