

Chinese Tallow: *Sapium sebiferum* (Non-native)



Chinese Tallow is a tree native to eastern Asia and was introduced to the United States in colonial times by Benjamin Franklin. ***Sebiferum*** means “wax-bearing,” and refers to the vegetable tallow that coats the seeds. This species is considered to be a noxious invader in the U.S., displacing many native species.

Chinese Tallow is found throughout the southern United States and has become naturalized from South Carolina southward along the Atlantic and the entire Gulf coast, where it grows profusely along ditch banks and especially well in open fields.

Chinese Tallow displaces oak trees in Bottomland hardwood Forests after storms, lowering the habitat’s ability to sustain the wildlife dependent upon the acorns for over wintering.

