

KEY  
CHARACTERISTICS

**growth** Fast growing dioecious (separate male and female) trees. Height 40-60 ft.

**flower** In late spring, clusters of small, yellow-green flowers appear near the tips of branches.

**stems** Smooth stems with pale gray bark, and twigs which are light chestnut brown, especially in the dormant season.

**leaves** Large compound leaves, 1-4 ft in length, are composed of 11-25 smaller leaflets that alternate along the stems. Each leaflet has one to several **glandular teeth** near the base. →

**fruit** Seeds are produced on female trees in late summer to early fall, in flat, twisted, papery structures (samaras), which may remain on the trees for long periods of time.



**notes** All parts of the tree, especially the flowers, have a strong, offensive odor, which some have likened to peanuts or cashews.

The wood of *Ailanthus* is soft, weak, coarse-grained, and creamy white to light brown in color.



Elevation:  
3000-7000 feet

Ecotypes Invaded:  
Scrublands, riparian, woodlands & forests.

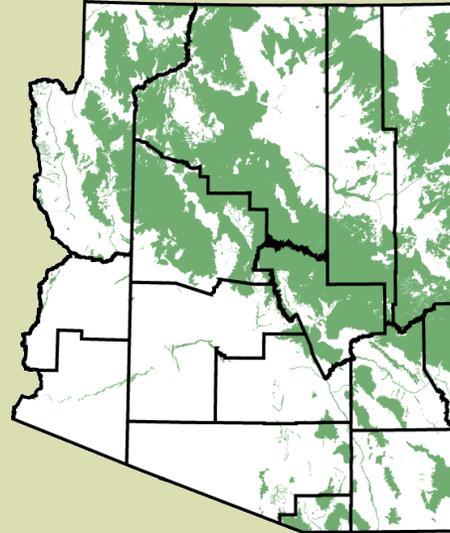
## ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

A prolific seed producer, a persistent stump and root sprouter and an aggressive competitor with respect to the surrounding vegetation. It produces toxins that prevent the establishment of other plant species.

It occurs primarily in disturbed areas, though it may invade undisturbed habitats. It is also common in disturbed urban areas, where it sprouts up just about anywhere, including alleys, sidewalks, parking lots, and streets. Aggressive roots cause damage to sewers and foundations.

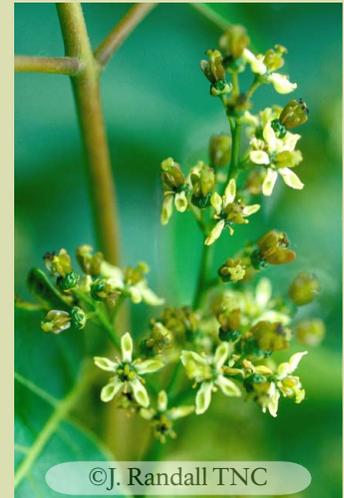
Away from cities, it is commonly seen in fields, and along roadsides, fencerows, woodland edges and forest openings.

### SUITABLE HABITAT



Suitable habitat based on the Arizona Wildlands Invasive Plant Working Group (AZ-WIPWG) assessment. Green = suitable habitat; White = unsuitable habitat; Gray = unknown. Based on Brown, Lowe & Paise (1980) vegetation communities.

Several native shrubs, like sumacs, and trees, like ash, black walnut and pecan, can be confused with *Ailanthus*. Check for leaf scar and glands at base of leaves.



©J. Randall TNC