



IDENTIFY

PRIVET | James H. Miller & Ted Bodner, Southern Weed Science Society, Bugwood.org



CHARACTERISTICS

Also known as common privet or European privet, it is a semi-evergreen shrub or small tree that can grow up to 20 feet in height. Leaves are opposite, lanceolate (oblong), usually measuring 1–3 inches long, and ½-inch wide. Flowering occurs from April to June, when creamy white flowers develop in clusters. Abundant fruits ripen to a dark purple to black color and persist into winter. Seeds are usually spread by birds and other wildlife that eat the fruit. Privet is commonly used as an ornamental shrub, often in hedgerows.

WHERE FROM

Originally native to Europe and Northern Africa, European privet was introduced to North America sometime during the 1700s.



PRIVET FOLIAGE Nava Tabak, Invasive Plant Atlas of New England, Bugwood.org

WHERE FOUND

Privet is currently found in at least 35 states, including Pennsylvania. It is able to tolerate a variety of growing conditions and can be found in fields, fence rows, roadsides, forest understories, and areas along rivers or streams. It is commonly planted in residential areas as a landscaping shrub or for privacy hedgerows.



PRIVET EARLY IN SEASON Mark Frey, The Presidio Trust, Bugwood.org



PRIVET FLOWERS The Dow Gardens Archive, Dow Gardens, Bugwood.org

CONTROL

CHEMICAL METHOD

In spring or summer, cut the plant as closely to the ground as possible and apply glyphosate (e.g., Roundup) to the cut stumps. Reapplication may be necessary. In the late fall or winter, use a foliar application of Garlon 3A or glyphosate.

MANUAL METHOD

Cutting or mowing privet to the ground may help slow and control the spread of the plant, but will not eradicate it. Instead, be sure to dig out and remove all of the roots to ensure privet will not grow back.

REMEMBER

When removing, be careful not to remove or destroy desirable species.

REPLANT

Do not plant privet. Instead, consider using native alternatives in landscaped areas such as: gray or alternate-leaved dogwood, arrowwood, or blackhaw viburnum.

(Read and follow all herbicide labels carefully before use.)