

# Invasive Species Management Guide

## Privet

Privet species (*Ligustrum spp.*) were introduced into the United States in the 1800s from China, Europe and North Africa, and have been used extensively for landscaping, particularly hedges. Privet has escaped into a wide range of sites, including fields, hedgerows, and forests. It is easy to identify as it stays green during the winter unless browsed heavily by deer.

Stems are brownish-grey to grey and opposite. Bark may have rough dots called lenticels. Sharp pointed branches often present. Twigs are grey-green. Leaves are small, .8-1.6 inches, shiny green above, pale green below, opposite, smooth margins. Abundant small white trumpet-shaped flowers in May-June. Fruits form in late summer in clusters. Fruits turn from green to dark purple to nearly black and remain on the plant. Propagation is by birds which eat the fruits year-round. Plants do not spread by rhizomes but will regenerate after cutting.



Flowers



Abundant Fruit



Lenticels on bark



Spines arranged in whorls

## Control

### Mechanical Control



Plants should be pulled in their entirety, being sure to get all of the roots to prevent regeneration. Small to medium-size plants can be removed with a Weed Wrench or similar tool. Mowing and cutting will suppress seed production, but the plant will regenerate from the cut stump. Follow-up for the next few years will be required to cut regenerated privet or new plants from the seed bank.

← This is a Weed Wrench®

### Chemical Control

Large plants should be cut before treatment. Regrowth of larger plants or smaller plants can be treated with foliar spray of a combination of glyphosate and triclopyr. Cut stumps should be immediately treated with glyphosate or triclopyr. Basal spraying of an oil/herbicide mixture is also recommended for larger plants.