

# Tree-of-Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)



- Large tree with creeping roots, malodorous foliage
- Habitats it invades:
  - Forests
  - Grasslands
  - Disturbed urban areas
- Status
  - Wisconsin: Restricted
  - Regulated in: IN, MN, OH



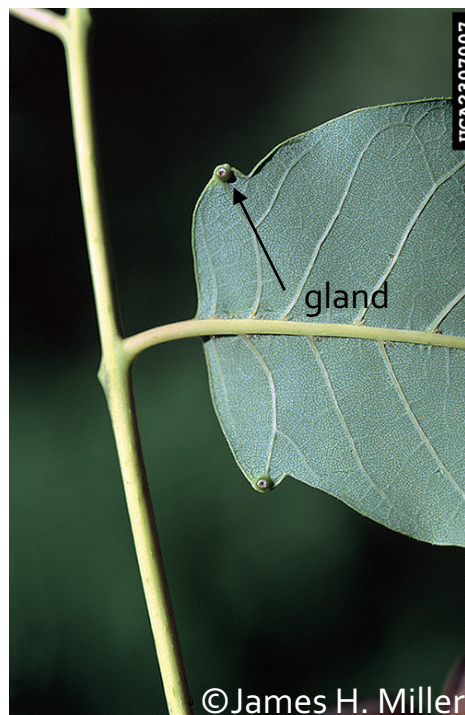




# Tree-of-Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)

*Leaves alternate, pinnately compound*

- 1–4' long, composed of 11–25 leaflets
- Leaflet has a smooth margin
- Gland present on underside of leaf
- Leaves have a strong odor when crushed.





# Tree-of-Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)



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## *Flower/fruit*

- Flowers small, yellow-green with 5–6 petals in dense, terminal inflorescences 8–16” long.
- Male and female flowers are borne on separate plants (dioecious) in late spring.
- Fruit is 1.5” long, green, turning pink to tan, papery with two wings extending from a seed at its center.



# Tree-of-Heaven look alike

Tree-of-heaven is most likely to be confused with other trees and shrubs with pinnately compound leaves.

It is easiest to tell the species apart when leaves are present, though leaf scars, flowers, and fruits can also aid identification.

Species	Branching	Leaves
Tree-of-heaven ( <i>Ailanthus altissima</i> )	Alternate	1-4 ft long; 11-25 leaflets; <b>toothless</b> , but may have one to several blunt <b>glandular teeth at base</b> of leaflet. <b>Leaves foul-smelling</b> , not sticky.
Sumacs ( <i>Rhus</i> spp.) (N)	Alternate	Up to 1 ½ ft long; 9-25 leaflets; <b>toothed</b> . No odor, not sticky.
Walnut, butternut ( <i>Juglans</i> spp.) (N)	Alternate	Up to 2 ft long; 11-19 leaflets; <b>finely toothed</b> . <b>Leaves sticky, with spicy citrus odor</b> .
Ash ( <i>Fraxinus</i> spp.) (N)	<b>Opposite</b>	Shorter, up to 1 ½ ft long; 5-13 leaflets; <b>finely toothed</b> . No odor, not sticky.



# Tree-of-Heaven look alike



Sumac (*Rhus*)  
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Tree-of-Heaven (*Ailanthus*)  
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Ash (*Fraxinus*)



Walnut (*Juglans*)  
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