

## Mimosa, Silk Tree

*Albizia julibrissin*

### Description -

- Small- to medium-sized tree with multiple trunks and spreading crown.
- Leaves finely divided and fern-like, bark light brown.
- Flowers a delicate white and pink in clusters like pom-poms in mid-summer.
- Bean pods six inches long and conspicuous through early winter.

**Distribution** - Found throughout the southeast, southwest and parts of the Midwest. Scattered across KY. Grows in native grasslands, fields, road cuts, and in forest edges.

**Threat** - Strong competitor in open areas, disturbed forests, and forest edges. Crowds out native tree and shrubs. Can grow in a variety of soils. Can be a problem along streams.

**Control** - Hand pulling of young seedlings is recommended where feasible. Treat trees by girdling, basal trunk spraying, or cutting to eliminate seed production. Freshly cut stumps should be treated with 25% solution of glyphosate or triclopyr with water or Garlon 4 with oil. Root or stump sprouting is likely as well as seedlings, so follow-up foliar spraying with 2% glyphosate or triclopyr is recommended

**Origin** - Iran to Japan

*(Reference: Plant Conservation Alliance, Alien Plant Working Group)*

Information and resources provided by TN & SE Exotic Pest Plant Councils (tneppc.org and se-eppc.org), Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere Program (samab.org), TVA, The University of Tennessee, US Fish & Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, Plant Conservation Alliance, and others.

## Japanese Knotweed

*Polygonum cuspidatum*

### Description—

- Forms dense stands that reach 10 feet.
- Leaves 2- to 6-inches long and heart-shaped.
- Stems are bamboo-like (hollow), light green to purplish-red, smooth, and swollen at joints where leaves are attached.
- Small flowers are white to greenish-white in small sprays along smallest branches.

**Distribution** - Found throughout much of the U.S. and scattered across KY. Grows along streams, home sites, low-lying areas, and rights of way.

**Threat** - Dense thickets crowd native vegetation. Tolerates adverse growing conditions. Quickly expands in natural areas from cultivated sources. Threatens riparian areas where it is rapidly colonizing scoured shorelines.

**Control** - Hand pull small plants. Grub larger plants removing roots (rhizomes) and other plant parts. Foliar spray with glyphosate or triclopyr (2%) during growing season. Treat cut plants with 25% solution to knock down plants for easier foliar spraying when new sprouts and leaves emerge.

**Similar Species** - Redbud has similar leaf, but lobes at leaf base rounded where knotweed leaf base is flat. Redbud has a solid, woody twig.

**Origin** - Japan

*(Reference: Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council)*

Information and resources provided by TN & SE Exotic Pest Plant Councils (tneppc.org and se-eppc.org), Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere Program (samab.org), TVA, The University of Tennessee, US Fish & Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, Plant Conservation Alliance, and others.

## Princess Tree

(Empress Tree, Royal Paulownia)

*Paulownia tomentosa*

### Description -

- Leaves large, heart-shaped, slightly fuzzy.
- Leaves occur in pairs along stems.
- Upright clusters of persistent over-wintering seed pods.
- Showy blue-lavender to violet flower clusters in early spring.

**Distribution** - Found throughout the eastern half of the U.S. and scattered across KY. Frequently along rights-of-way, stream sides, forest openings and edges, disturbed sites.

**Threat** - Invades disturbed forest areas where its fast growth can change forest composition. Stream banks and rocky slopes vulnerable to invasions, placing biological diversity at risk.

**Control** - Hand pulling of seedlings must be done when soil is loose for root removal. Foliar sprays includes glyphosate and triclopyr at 2% solutions. Cut trees should have stumps treated with 25% solutions of glyphosate or triclopyr. Expect follow-up foliar treatments. Girdling and basal trunk treatment with 25% triclopyr are other options.

**Origin**—Western and central China

*(Reference: Plant Conservation Alliance, Alien Plant Working Group)*

Information and resources provided by TN & SE Exotic Pest Plant Councils (tneppc.org and se-eppc.org), Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere Program (samab.org), TVA, The University of Tennessee, US Fish & Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, Plant Conservation Alliance, and others.

**Princess Tree**



**Japanese Knotweed**



**Mimosa, Silk Tree**

