



# Invasive Plant Atlas of New England

## Catalog of Species Search Results



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## *Ligustrum vulgare* (European privet )

[Common Name\(s\)](#) | [Full Scientific Name](#) | [Family Name Common](#) | [Family Scientific Name](#) | [Images](#) | [Synonyms](#) | [Description](#) | [Similar Species](#) | [Reproductive/Dispersal Mechanisms](#) | [Distribution](#) | [History of Introduction in New England](#) | [Habitats in New England](#) | [Threats](#) | [Early Warning Notes](#) | [Management Links](#) | [Documentation Needs](#) | [Additional Information](#) | [References](#) | [Data Retrieval](#) | [Maps of New England Plant Distribution](#)

### COMMON NAME

European privet

### FULL SCIENTIFIC NAME

*Ligustrum vulgare* L.

### FAMILY NAME COMMON

Olive family

### FAMILY SCIENTIFIC NAME

Oleaceae

### IMAGES



Flowers and leaves



Flower close-up



Habit



Leaves



Flower close-up

**NOMENCLATURE/SYNONYMS****Synonyms:** None**DESCRIPTION**[Botanical Glossary](#)Click [here](#) for a link to *Ligustrum obtusifolium* description.**SIMILAR SPECIES***Ligustrum obtusifolium* Sieb. & Zucc (Border privet)*Ligustrum ovalifolium* Hassk. (California privet)*Ligustrum sinense* Lour. (Chinese privet)

Identifying the privets that escape and become naturalized is problematic. A positive identification can only be made when the plants are in flower, which is usually during a few weeks in June. Even then, exact determinations can be questionable because of the possibility of hybrids, cultivars, synonyms, and incorrect determinations. It is also unclear exactly what species occur in the region. To date, we know that *Ligustrum obtusifolium*, *L. ovalifolium* and *L. vulgare* have been reported from New England. Other species may be erroneously reported or represent species not currently documented from the region. Thus the chart below can only partially aid in privet identification. If you think you have found another species, please submit a flowering specimen with collection data to the IPANE Project.

Character	<i>Ligustrum obtusifolium</i>	<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i>	<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>
Corolla tube	5 - 8 mm	5 - 8 mm	2.5 - 3 mm	2.5 - 3 mm
Anthers	Reach nearly to the tip of the corolla lobes	Surpass the corolla lobes	Surpass the corolla lobes	Not reaching the tips of the corolla lobes
Twigs	Pubescent	Glabrous	Densely pubescent	Minutely puberulent or glabrous

**REPRODUCTIVE/DISPERSAL MECHANISMS**

*Ligustrum vulgare* reproduces by seeds. Like the other exotic *Ligustrum* species in New England, it is dispersed by birds that eat its fruits and defecate the seeds.

**DISTRIBUTION**

## HISTORY OF INTRODUCTION IN NEW ENGLAND

## HABITATS IN NEW ENGLAND

## THREATS

Like *Ligustrum obtusifolium* and *L. sinense*, this plant is capable of escaping to form dense thickets that can crowd out native species.

## MANAGEMENT LINKS

[The Nature Conservancy](#)

[Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council Invasive Plant Manual](#)

## DOCUMENTATION NEEDS

Documentation required: Herbarium specimen or mounted snippet of a branch with flowers.

Best time for documentation: Summer.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Integrated Taxonomic Information System](#)

Taxonomic Information

[The PLANTS database](#)

General information and a map

[The Nature Conservancy](#)

Extensive description and control information

[University of Connecticut Plant Database](#)

General information and photographs

[Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas](#)

General information and native alternatives

## REFERENCES

Bailey, L. H. 1949. Manual of Cultivated Plants. Macmillan, New York.

Dirr, M.A. 1998. Manual of Woody Landscape Plants. 5th ed. Stipes Publishing, Champaign, Illinois.

Fernald, M.L. 1950. Gray's Manual of Botany 8th ed. American Book Co., Boston.

Gleason H.A. and A.C. Cronquist. 1991. Manual of Vascular Plants of the Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada. 2nd ed. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York.

Holmgren N.H. 1998. Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York.

Kollman, J. and Reiner, S.A. (1996) Light demands of shrub seedlings and their establishment within scrublands. *Flora* 191, 191-100.

Magee D.W and H.E. Ahles. 1999. *Flora of the Northeast*. University of Massachusetts Press, Amherst.

USDA, NRCS. 2001. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.1. (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.

## DATA RETRIEVAL

Select a task by clicking the radio button and then click "Submit Selection."

- Formatted display as table
- Export as comma-delimited text file

## MAPS OF PLANT DISTRIBUTION IN NEW ENGLAND

Select a study area by clicking the radio button and then click "Submit Selection."

- The whole New England area
- One or more states
- One or more counties
- One or more towns (county sub-divisions)

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