

Japanese / Glossy Privet

SHRUBS



T. Bodner

***Ligustrum japonicum* Thunb./*L. lucidum* Ait. f. LIJA/LILU2**

Plant. Evergreen to 20 feet (6 m) in height for Japanese privet and 35 feet (10 m) in height for glossy privet, with spreading crowns, thick opposite leaves, conical clusters of white flowers in spring, and green to purple-black fruit in summer and winter.

Stem. Twigs hairless and pale green becoming brownish to reddish tinged. Branches opposite and brownish gray with many raised corky dots (lenticels). Bark light gray and smooth except for scattered horizontal, discontinuous ridges.

Leaves. Opposite, leathery, ovate to oblong, bases rounded and tips blunt or tapering often with a tiny sharp tip. Two to four inches (5 to 10 cm) long and 1 to 2 inches (2.5 to 5 cm) wide. Margins entire and often yellowish rimmed and turned upward with glossy privet and slightly rolled under with Japanese privet. Upper blades lustrous dark green with 6 to 8 pairs of light-green veins with glossy privet and 4 to 6 pairs of indistinct veins with Japanese privet that protrude slightly from light green lower surfaces. Petioles 0.4 to 0.8 inch (1 to 2 cm) long for glossy privet and 0.2 to 0.4 inch (6 to 12 mm) long for Japanese privet, light green and glossy privet sometimes reddish tinged.

Flowers. April to June. Loosely branching, terminal- and upper-axillary, conical clusters of many small white four-petaled flowers. Fragrant.

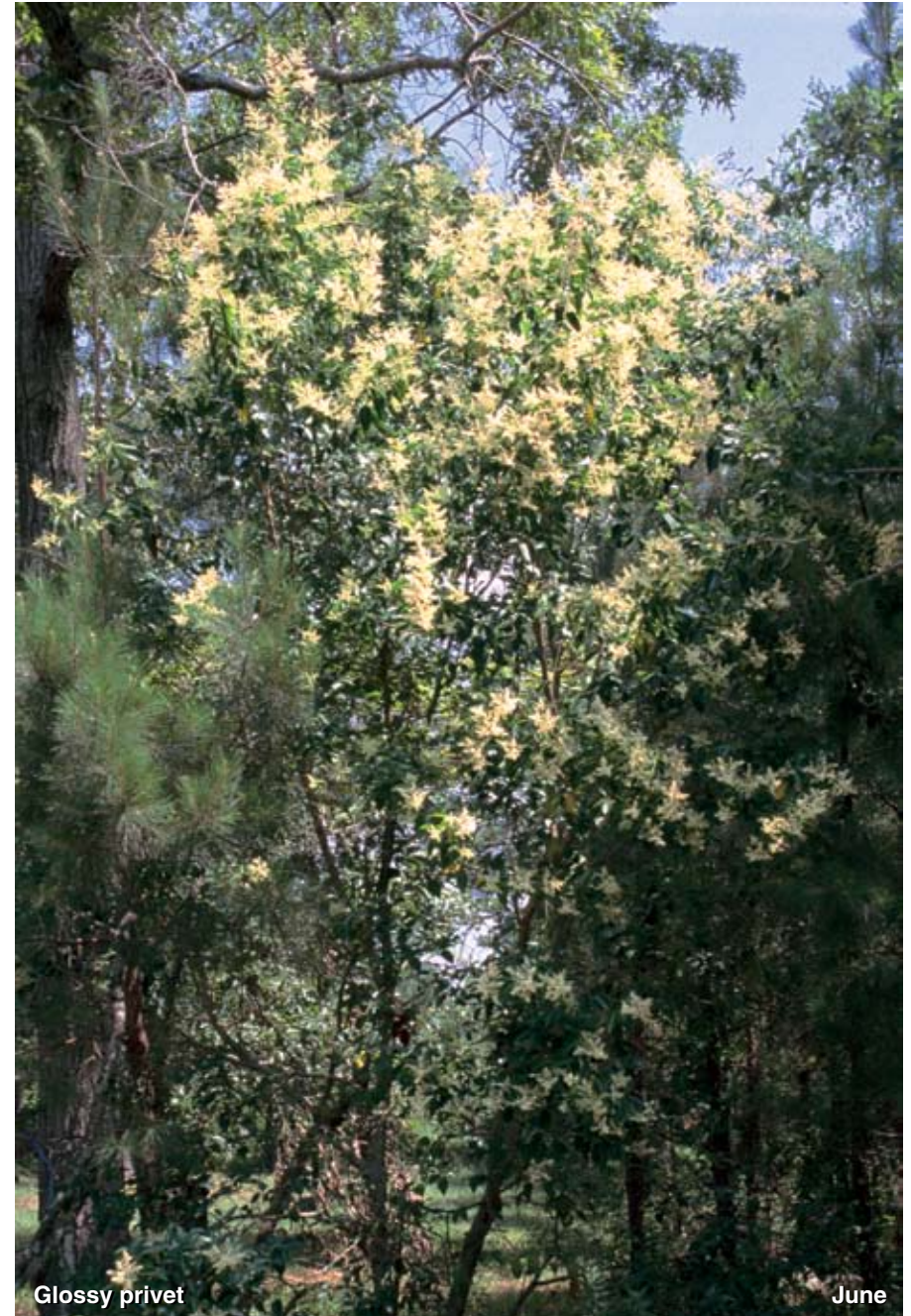
Fruit and seeds. July to February. Conical-shaped, branched terminal clusters of ovoid drupes, each 0.2 to 0.5 inch (5 to 12 mm) long and 0.2 inch (5 mm) wide. Pale green in summer ripening to blue black in winter.

Ecology. Single plants or thicket-forming, occurring in the same habitats as Chinese privet, but generally not as abundant, depending upon location. Invade both lowland and upland habitats, but usually more prevalent in lowlands. Shade tolerant. Colonize by root sprouts and spread by abundant bird- and other animal-dispersed seeds.

Resembles Chinese privet, *L. sinense* Lour., which has smaller and thinner leaves, is further described in this book. **Also resembles** redbtip, also named photinia, *Photinia x fraseri* Dress, an ornamental shrub that has similar but alternate leaves.

History and use. Introduced from Japan and Korea in 1845 and 1794, respectively. Widely planted as ornamentals and escaped.

States with suspected infestations are shown in gray.

**Japanese / Glossy Privet****2104**

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June