

Tung Oil Tree

WARNING! Highly Toxic

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Tung oil bloom. Photo credit: J. Dillard, UF/IFAS



Tung oil fruit and leaf. Photo credit: A. Marek, UF/IFAS



Tung oil tree, *Aleurites fordii*. Photo by Karen Brown © 2008 University of Florida



Tung oil tree, *Aleurites fordii*. Photo by Karen Brown © 2008 University of Florida

Management

Avoid planting tung trees. Remove saplings by hand and trash fruit. For mature trees, cut the stump close to the ground. Within 1 minute, spray cut stump with a 50% triclopyr solution.



Cut stumps as close to the ground and as level as possible. Concentrate the herbicide just inside the bark. Photo credit: Lyle Duane, UF/IFAS

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Marion County residents and landowners should be aware of this highly toxic and invasive tree. The tung oil tree (*Aleurites fordii*) produces attractive blooms but all parts of the plant are toxic to livestock and humans. **One seed can kill a person.** Some people suffer from rashes simply by touching the leaves.

Introduced for tung oil production and as an ornamental tree, the tung tree can be found in various parts of the state, including Marion County. The tree is invasive and spreads by seed and roots. Tung trees can grow up to 40 feet tall, the bark is smooth, and the heart-shaped leaves can grow up to 6 inches wide. Removing the tree is highly recommended.

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