



Paper Mulberry

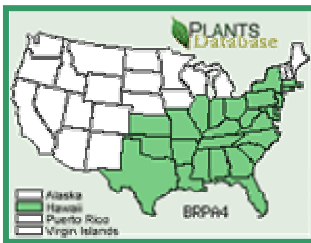
Broussonetia papyrifera (L.) L'Her. ex Vent.
Mulberry family (Moraceae)

NATIVE RANGE: Japan and Taiwan

DESCRIPTION: Paper mulberry is a deciduous tree with milky sap that grows to a maximum height of about 45 ft. (15 m.). The twigs are hairy reddish brown, and the bark is tan and smooth to moderately furrowed. The wood is soft and brittle with conical buds. Leaves are densely gray-pubescent, often lobed or mitten-shaped, and are alternate, opposite or whorled along the stem. The leaf margin is sharply toothed, the leaf base is heart-shaped-to-rounded with pointed tips, and the upper leaf surface is rough feeling. Paper Mulberry is dioecious, meaning male and female flowers are produced on separate trees. Male trees produce long clusters of flowers in mid-April. Female trees produce ball-shaped flower clusters that mature into red ball-shaped aggregate fruits. The fruits are reddish purple to orange, ¾ - 1 in. (1.5-2.0 cm) in diameter, and appear in summer. Paper mulberry may be confused with the exotic white mulberry and native trees such as red mulberry, sassafras, basswood, and white poplar.



ECOLOGICAL THREAT: Paper mulberry exhibits aggressive growth and quickly invades disturbed lands, displacing native plants. It has a shallow root system that makes the trees susceptible to blow over during high winds.



DISTRIBUTION IN THE UNITED STATES:

Paper-mulberry occurs in twenty eight states in the Northeast, Southeast, and Midwest, and is reported to be invasive in natural areas in the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. It is also identified as an invasive weed in over a dozen countries around the world.



HABITAT IN THE UNITED STATES: Paper mulberry thrives in open habitats such as forest and field edges, and in disturbed areas.



MANAGEMENT OPTIONS:

Manual- Pull seedlings by hand when the ground is moist.
Mechanical- Cut young plants to the ground, repeating as necessary to control regrowth from sprouts. **Biological Control-** Biological control is not currently available for this plant.

Chemical- Basal bark, cut-stem, hack-and-squirt, or injection methods of herbicide application are recommended - Garlon 4 (triclopyr ester @ 61.6% a.i.) with a 15-20% mix in horticultural oil will achieve effective control. Garlon 3A (triclopyr amine @ 44.4% a.i.) may be used with a 50% mix in water for cut stump applications.

References: www.nps.gov/plants/alien, www.duke.edu/~cwcook/trees/brpa.html, http://plants.usda.gov/cgi_bin/topics.cgi?earl=noxious.cgi, www.invasive.org