

Morus alba, White Mulberry

The White Mulberry is native to Asia and was imported for rearing silkworms. This species commonly infests fields, urban lots, roadsides, or along the edges of forests. They are common along the edges of the Mohawk and Hudson rivers. The plant develops quickly but the individuals are usually short lived. The berries/fruit can easily stain sidewalks and pavements.



Description: This deciduous plant grows up to 30-50 feet tall. The leaves are alternate, variably shaped, and grow to 2-8 inches long. The leaves appear shiny with blunt teeth and heart-shaped bases. The bark may look orange in color, but age makes it appear gray. The bark also has narrow, irregular fissures.



Control: The seedlings can be removed mechanically, by being pulled, dug up, or cut down. The White Mulberry may also be treated with herbicides through a cut stump treatment.

Look-alikes: This White Mulberry is similar to the native red mulberry (*Morus rubra*). They can be distinguished by their leaves. The white mulberry has glossy leaves while the red mulberry has larger leaves that appear a more dull green. A couple other similar looking species are Basswood (*Tilia* spp.), Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), and Paper Mulberry (*Broussonetia papyrifera*).

Flower Time: Flowering occurs in April. Male flowers are small, green and occur in long catkins. Female flowers are crowded in short spikes. The fruits are berries, ranging in color from black to pink, and may look white when ripe.

