

Elaeagnus pungens

SILVERTHORN

Elaeagnus pungens

Common Synonyms: *none*

FLEPPC Category: 2

FDACS Listed Noxious Weed: No

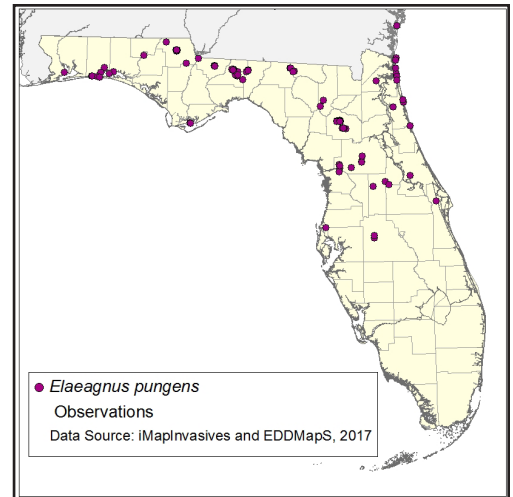
IFAS Assessment

North	INVASIVE
Central	INVASIVE
South	INVASIVE

USDA Hardiness Zone: 7a-9b

Growth Habit: Evergreen, thorny, quickly growing shrub

Origin: China and Japan



Brenda Herring

Description: Planted as a landscape plant for its ability to quickly grow into hedges. Evergreen, thorny shrub that grows 1 to 8 m high. Grows upright or can be viney or climbing in habit. Stems and bark red-brown in color. Leaves alternate, lance-shaped with entire-wavy margins and are 5 to 10 cm long and 0.5 to 5 cm wide. Scales are present on both leaf surfaces with upper waxy green and lower silver. Flowers are small (0.5-1.5 cm long), white-pale yellow, shaped like a bell, and have a sweet aroma. Flowering occurs in the fall with 1 to 3 flowers per axillary cluster. Fruits are round, red, drupes that are covered in silver scales.

Can hybridize with native *Elaeagnus* species

Habitat: Can tolerate a wide range of habitats due to its tolerance of salt, shade, and drought including coastal grasslands, beach dunes, hammocks, and ruderal settings.

Florida Introduction Date: 1800's

Control Methods: Mechanical: repeated tilling or mowing.

Chemical: Foliar treatments using solutions of glyphosate or imazapyr with a surfactant in water; Upper stems and young bark basal spray treatments using a 20% triclopyr ester in a petroleum base (mineral oil); large stems and freshly cut stumps can be treated with 10% imazapyr, 50% triclopyr amine, or 20% glyphosate in water with a non-ionic surfactant. [CAIP]. No known biological control

Useful Resources:

IFAS, UF. 2017. Assessment of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas. *Elaeagnus pungens*. <https://assessment.ifas.ufl.edu/assessments/elaegnus-pungens/> Accessed September 19, 2017.

Langeland, K.A. and K. Craddock Burks. 1998. Identification and Biology of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas. IFAS Publication SP 257. University of Florida, Gainesville. 165 pp.

Dave's Garden. 2017. PlantFiles: silverthorn (*Elaeagnus pungens*). <http://davesgarden.com/guides/pf/go/56674/> Accessed September 19, 2017.

Comments: Introduced as an ornamental landscape plant