

# *Thespesia populnea*

## SEASIDE MAHOE

*Malvaceae*

Common Synonyms: *none*

**FLEPPC Category:** 1

**FDACS Listed Noxious Weed:** No

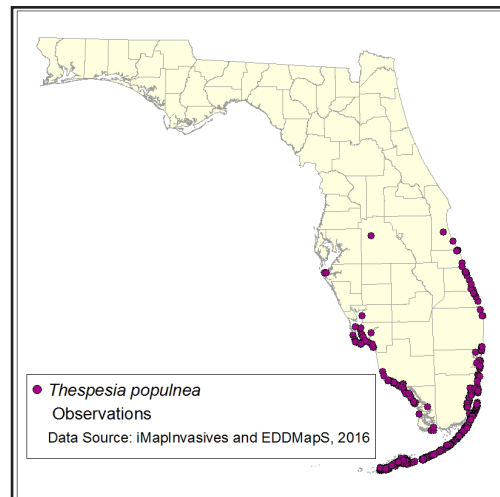
**IFAS Assessment**

North	OK
Central	OK
South	INVASIVE

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 10b-11

**Growth Habit:** Tree

**Origin:** Old World tropics



FNAI

**Description:** Evergreen shrub or tree, commonly to 13 m tall, with young branches minutely brown-scaly. Leaves alternate, simple, petioles 5–10 cm long, blades entire, heart shaped, shiny dark green above, 5–20 cm long, usually with 5 main veins from base. Flowers showy, hibiscus-like, single in upper leaf axils, to 8 cm across. Corolla yellow with a red center, turning maroon by nightfall. Stamens united into a column shorter than petals. Fruit a leathery, flattened globose, 5-parted capsule, 4 cm wide, yellow turning black, persisting unopened for a time. Seeds several, hairy, brown.

**Habitat:** coastal habitats of South Florida and the Keys

**Comments:** Flowers and fruits nearly year-round. Fruits and seeds buoyant, adapted to long-distance dispersal by tides and ocean currents. Found only where minimum temperatures are above 35°F

**Florida Introduction Date:** pre 1928

**Control Methods:**

Manual: Seedlings can be hand pulled.

Chemical: Basal bark - 10%-25% Garlon 4. Cut stump - 50% Garlon 3A.

**Useful Resources:**

Langeland, K.A., H.M. Cherry, C.M. McCormick, K.C. Burks. 2008. Identification and Biology of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas-Second Edition. IFAS Publication SP 257. University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

Langeland, K.A., J.A. Ferrell, B. Sellers, G.E. MacDonald, and R.K. Stocker. 2011. Integrated management of non-native plants in natural areas of Florida. EDIS publication SP 242. University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.