

Horsesugar

Symplocos tinctoria

The Sweetleaf Family (Symplocaceae)

Basic Description: Horsesugar, also known as Sweetleaf, is a multi-trunked shrub to small tree with alternate, evergreen leaves, striped grayish bark and fragrant showy blossoms on bare branches in spring.

Interesting Facts: The fresh leaves, with their sweet, “sour apple” flavor, are edible for humans and livestock. The leaves and roots are used to produce a yellow dye. Host plant to the King’s Hairstreak Butterfly. In springtime a fungal gall called *Exobasidium symploci* can form on the newly emerging leaves causing large, fleshy, edible growths.

Flower: Male and female flowers are in clusters of small creamy white petals with numerous stamens that appear as fuzzy globes before the new leaves appear.

Fruit: Dry drupes, .5” long, egg-shaped, orangish-brown, mature in late summer.

Wildlife Value: Leaves and branches are a forage plant for mammals; flowers attract insects; and seeds are a source of food for some bird species.

Habitat: Sandy thickets, alluvial woods, stream banks.

LEAF TYPE

SIMPLE



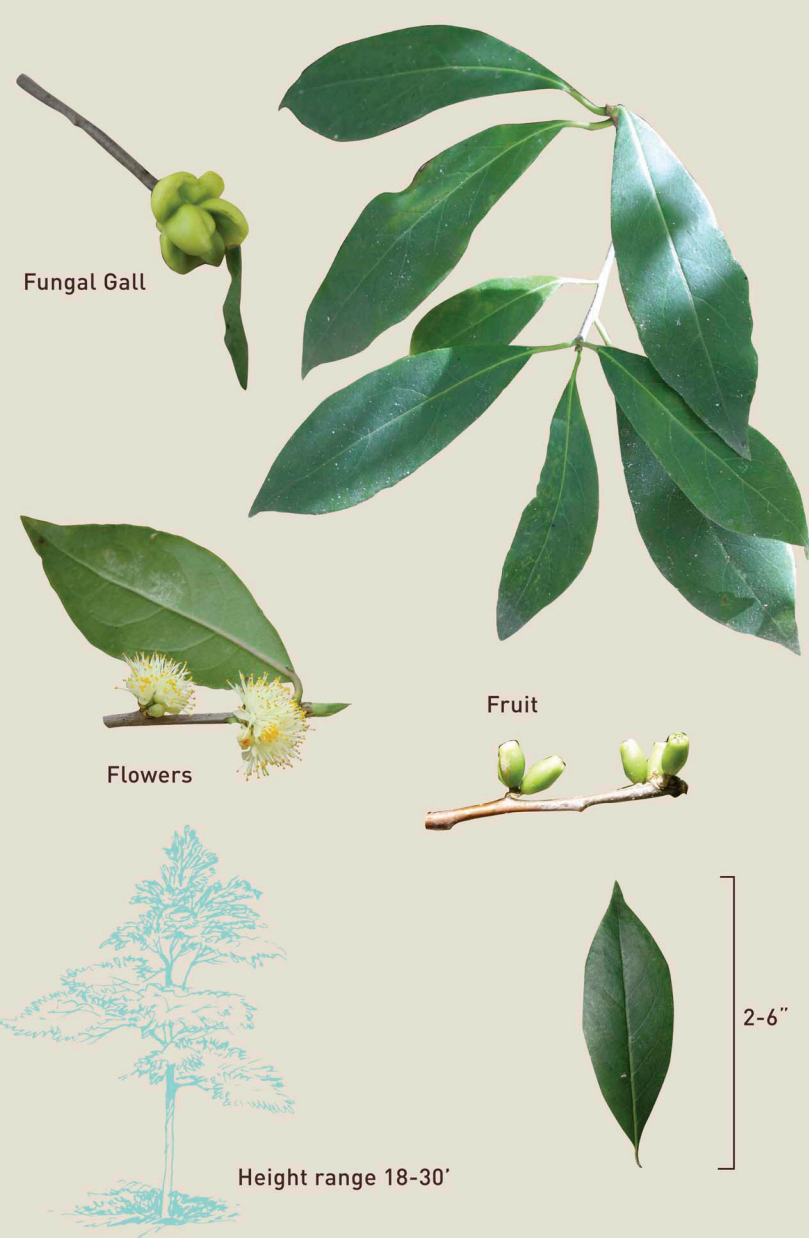
POLLINATOR

INSECTS



WILDLIFE VALUE

MEDIUM



Height range 18-30'