Chinaberry
More Complicated than it Looks!

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A Few Things I Discovered About Chinaberry

- On the surface, they don't seem like much more than a nuisance plant
- They are in Meliaceae Family (Mahogany), but too fast grown for quality wood products or firewood; form is also poor (cactus)
- Very easy to kill the individual but extremely difficult to remove a well established population
- They release allelopathic compounds—confirmed with a quick google search, but the evidence told me that from the start
- Fast growing; they will begin producing a few seed as early as 4 years old
- Seed dispersed by birds, thousands produced and dropped underneath mature trees
- Seed viable for multiple years
- Bottom line = nightmare to control unless you catch it before full establishment on your property
Background on Farm

- 108 Acres in Farmington Georgia (between Madison and Athens)
- Purchased by my grandfather in 1943 while he was in the army
- Grade B dairy until the mid 1970s; grade A dairy from mid 70s til early 80s
- Became rental farm in early 80s and upkeep (fencerows, etc) declined
- I inherited 1/3 interest in property in late 1990s and started work on chinaberry
Chinaberry Control Methods
I Have Applied

- Mechanical: Chainsaw felling
- Mechanical: Clearing by dozer
- Mechanical: Bushhog
- Basal bark spray—Garlon IV or Chopper
- ATV foliar spray—Glyphosate or Chopper
- Backpack/handheld foliar spray—Glyphosate, Chopper, Garlon IV (dewberry)
- Hack (chainsaw) and squirt—Glyphosate or Chopper
- Cut stump treatment
- Will discuss all of these methods
Typical Growth Habit
Very Adaptive-Growing in Concrete Cracks
Hack (chainsaw) and Squirt

- 10 ounces Chopper in 1 gallon water
- OR
- 64 ounces of 41% glyphosate mixed with 64 ounces of water
Chopper Impacts
Recruitment After Overstory Removal

- Allelopathy prohibits growth of all but the strongest individuals until release event.
- Sunlight + removal of allelopathic source causes explosion of seed germination.
Recruitment After Overstory Removal

- Pine plantation behind and food plot in front
- Light was not limiting factor
- “Mother Tree” Injected—Seed germination exploded
- Good age to hit with 5% glyphosate from ATV sprayer, but still requires multiple treatments
- Canopy density prevents good penetration, so always some that will make it through the treatment
- Will also have another germination “event” when sunlight hits ground again
Recruitment After Overstory Removal

- Approximate age 4
- By age 4 or 5, too late for foliar spray
- 10 to 15 feet tall
- DBH 1 to 3 inches
- Basal bark spray best option
Basal Bark Spray
Basal Bark Spray

- 8 to 12 ounces Chopper (I use 10) OR
- 20 to 30% Garlon IV (I used 20%)
- Mixed into 1 gallon of diesel (basal bark oil)
- Diesel is tough on garden sprayers!
- Garlon used near large “keeper” hardwoods
- Spray to wet lower 6 inches of stem on both sides
- 100% kill with chopper year round
- Some resprouting with Garlon IV after winter treatment
- Recommend bumping Garlon rate during winter
CHINABERRY REMOVAL SITE: PROGRESSION THROUGH TIME

- DECIDED TO CONVERT SEVERAL AREAS FROM CHINABERRY TO WILDLIFE OPENING/WILDLIFE TREE PLANTINGS
- UNFORTUNATELY NO “BEFORE” PICTURES
- REMOVED OVERSTORY WITH GIRDLING OR CHAINSAW FELLING AND HERBICIDE... USED SOME DIRECTIONAL FELLING TO CONCENTRATE SEED DROP
- CHOPPER OR GENERIC EQUIVALENT USED AT 10 OUNCES PER GALLON OF WATER; INCLUDE MARKING DYE ON CUT STUMPS. (LABEL = 8 TO 16 OZ/G)
- I WAS OVERWHELMED, SO ON TO NEXT STEP
CHINABERRY REMOVAL SITE: PROGRESSION THROUGH TIME

GEORGIA FORESTRY COMMISSION DOZER REMOVED EVERYTHING
CHINABERRY REMOVAL SITE: PROGRESSION THROUGH TIME

- Following summer chinaberry returned
- Used chopper from ATV sprayer for open areas with no hardwoods to damage
- Labeled rate is 2 to 10% in water
- Had good control
CHINABERRY REMOVAL SITE: PROGRESSION THROUGH TIME

- Areas with large oaks present used glyphosate at 2% in water
- Had fair amount of residual sprouting, but could be due to low volume of water used;
- Had to retreat area
- Only takes about 4 years to get back to what was there before the dozer
CHINA BERRY REMOVAL SITE: PROGRESSION THROUGH TIME

- RESPROUTING REQUIRED RETREATMENT
- CURRENTLY USE 5% FOR BACKPACK SPRAYING WITH GLYPHOSATE IN DENSE STANDS
CHINABERRY REMOVAL SITE:
PROGRESSION THROUGH TIME

- RETREATED RESPROUTS
- PLANTED PERSIMMON, CRABAPPLE, ETC., IN TREE TUBES
- CONTINUED SPOT TREATMENT FOR SEVERAL YEARS WORKED FAIRLY WELL
- LET THINGS GO FOR SEVERAL YEARS WITHOUT SPOT TREATING — FAST FORWARD
CHINABERRY REMOVAL SITE: PROGRESSION THROUGH TIME

- 6 YEARS OF NO TREATMENT = MORE CHINABERRY
- OVERTOPPING CROP TREES
- MANY OF THESE 5 YEAR OLD CHINABERRY WERE PRODUCING SEED
CHINABERRY REMOVAL SITE: PROGRESSION THROUGH TIME

USED CHAINSAW FELLING INSTEAD OF BASAL BARK SPRAY FOR 2 REASONS

#1. TO PROVIDE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF CROP TREES

#2 CHEMICALS WOULD BE AN ISSUE—CHOPPER SOIL ACTIVITY, BUT WHAT ABOUT GARLON IV?
CHINABERRY REMOVAL SITE: PROGRESSION THROUGH TIME

- TREATED STUMPS WITH 50% MIX OF GLYPHOSATE AND WATER (64 OUNCES OF 41% GLYPHOSATE ADDED TO 64 OUNCES WATER)
- ADDED DYE FOR VISIBILITY
CHINABERRY REMOVAL SITE: PROGRESSION THROUGH TIME

- WHAT'S NEXT?
- THE CYCLE STARTS AGAIN WITH A BACKPACK SPRAYER THIS SUMMER
10 Seeds Chinaberry Tree Seeds (Fast Growing "Umbrella" Shaped Tree)

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- The Chinaberry Tree (Umbrella Tree) An Old Time Favorite...One of the Fastest growing Shade trees ever! I like the Chinaberry Tree because it makes a pretty shade tree, growing to 40 feet or more. They have delicate, lacy leaves and clusters of purple-white blooms, which turn into the berries. The limbs on a mature tree are high up on the trunk, leaving room underneath for walking, moving or chair sitting.
- These stones or berries are sometimes used for natural jewelry, as in necklaces and bracelets. They also have been used to make rosaries. When the dropped berries get old, slip off the outer yellow layer and the cream-colored berry is revealed. It is this that is used, and for this reason the tree is sometimes called bead tree. The fruit of the Chinaberry tree falls to the ground when ripe, and there’s a hard seed in there kind of like a wooden bead.
- If you don’t eat them all up from under the tree, there will be bunches of little sprouts. So you can just collect all those berries and plant them and you shouldn’t have much trouble getting more to grow. They’re a pretty hardy plant The fruit of a chinaberry tree is a berry-like, round, fleshy fruit. It continues through winter and contains a stone with one to six seeds inside. They are yellowish green turning to yellowish tan.
- Chinaberry is a round, deciduous, shade tree, reaching 30 to 40 feet at maturity and growing five to 10 feet during the first and second year after seed germination. Growth slows as the tree reaches 15 or 20 feet tall. It is successfully grown in a wide variety of situations, including alkaline soil where other trees might fail. Truly an urban survivor, Chinaberry has become naturalized in much of the south.
- Our seeds/bulbs are guaranteed to be fresh but are NOT guaranteed as to results. Sorry, but there are too many variables in gardening that can impact germination. Power seeds/bulbs are a live organism. Their germination depends on many factors including heat, cooling, sun, shade, moisture, time of sowing, etc. None of these things We can control so We can not be held responsible for them. So please do not
QUESTIONS?