

July

Invasive of the Month



Mimosa Tree (*Albizia julibrissin*)

Easily recognizable with their delicate, "pom pom" like flowers the mimosa tree was brought to the US in the 1700s, like many other invasive plants, as an ornamental tree. Now this tree can be found in almost any disturbed areas, from road sides to streambanks, it has quickly become an invasive issue. Reproducing through both seed dispersal and root cuttings the mimosa tree is a prolific spreader. As a member of the legume family it can fix nitrogen in the soil, inhibiting the growth of native plants.

How to Identify:

The mimosa is most easily recognizable by its flowers, often described as a star-burst or pom pom like flower. The flowers are pink and white and can be seen from late May well into early July. The leaves are bi-pinnately compound and resemble delicate ferns. The fruit is a long, flat, brown seed pod that develops in the late summer.

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