



OFFICIAL NEWS RELEASE

MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Help Stop the Pop: MS Forestry Commission Maps Popcorn Trees Statewide

JACKSON, Miss. - The Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) and Plan-It Geo recently launched a new online tool for communities and individuals to report sightings of the Chinese Tallow, also known as the “Popcorn” tree.

Popcorn trees may look harmless, but they are one of the top 10 worst invasive weeds in Mississippi. Popcorn Trees spread like wildfire, overtaking native vegetation, damaging wildlife habitats, and destroying nature’s balance. Popcorn trees have distinct heart-shaped leaves, dangling yellow flowers, and fruit that appears similar to popcorn.

Help the Mississippi Forestry Commission stop the spread of this invasive species by reporting sightings to: www.HelpStopThePop.com

“Popcorn trees are deceptive, they look attractive and ornamental - but are actually highly invasive and will quickly damage the native ecosystem wherever they are planted,” said Todd Matthews, Urban Forestry & Forest Health Coordinator. “By reporting the location of these trees, you can help the Mississippi Forestry Commission get a full picture of Mississippi’s Popcorn Tree problem, which is the first step to combating the spread of this invasive species.”

There is no software installation needed to report a sighting, only your web browser. To get started, visit: www.HelpStopThePop.com

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About the Mississippi Forestry Commission

Established in 1926, the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) protects the state’s valuable forest resources from wildfire, manages approximately 480,000 acres of forested School Trust Land, and delivers quality forest management services and assistance to both rural and urban landowners. Our mission is to provide active leadership in forest protection, forest management, forest inventory, and effective forest information distribution, necessary for Mississippi’s sustainable forest-based economy. The MFC looks forward to the continued privilege of caring for Mississippi’s trees, forests, and natural resources.

Resources:

Popcorn Tree PSA Video - <http://bit.ly/PopcornTreePSA>

Popcorn Tree Info - <http://bit.ly/PopcornTreeInfo>

MFC website - www.mfc.ms.gov

MFC on Facebook - facebook.com/MSForestryCommission

MFC on Twitter - twitter.com/MSForestryComm

Plan-It Geo website - www.planitgeo.com

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS TREE?



NAME: CHINESE TALLOW TREE

ALIAS: POPCORN TREE

- Invasive Species
- Spreads Like Wildfire
- Overtakes Native Vegetation
- Damages Wildlife Habitat
- Destroys Nature's Balance

TO REPORT A SIGHTING:

www.HelpStopThePop.com

