

Tree of Heaven Mitigation

Mitigating the invasive species known as the Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) requires a multifaceted approach that combines technical expertise with environmental awareness.

The most effective way to control tree of heaven is to pull seedlings by hand before the taproot develops. If the plant has matured, cutting alone will only help temporarily by reducing its ability to spread. It's important to correctly identify the tree of heaven since it looks similar to some native species. Several native trees and shrubs also have pinnately compound leaves (arranged in pairs across the plant's stem) such as sumac, ash and black walnut. It can be distinguished from these native species by its fuzzy, reddish-brown twigs and clusters of light green seed pods.

In May/June when the leaves unfold we will begin identifying the trees on several GMLC properties including Sherman Road. Part of this mitigation process will be to identify growth on all other properties during our annual inspections and with the assistance of our mitigation expert.

Small trees will be sprayed, larger trees will be cut at the base and the stumps and "runners", then sprayed by a licensed herbicide applicator. We will then perform a follow-up spraying or additional treatments through the season if needed, and then again in September.

The spread of Tree-of-Heaven is rapid and may not be evident until it is well underway. Please help us prevent this invasive species from spreading throughout our Village by being able to identify it, contacting a licensed mitigation specialist and preventing its spread to neighboring properties.



Mitigation efforts on some of our properties, requiring an arborist and certified herbicide applicator.