

## ***Ailanthus excelsa* (Tree of Heaven)**

It is known as the Tree of Heaven, is a deciduous tree species native to China and India.

### **Classification**

Kingdom: Plantae

Clade: Tracheophytes

Clade: Angiosperms

Clade: Eudicots

Clade: Rosids

Order: Sapindales

Family: Simaroubaceae

Genus: *Ailanthus*

Species: *excelsa*



### **PHYSICAL CHARACTERS**

**Height:** Large tree, up to 30 meters tall. Straight trunk with smooth, gray bark.

**Leaves:** Compound leaves with 11-25 leaflets.

**Flowers:** Small, yellowish-green flowers in clusters.

**Fruit:** Reddish-brown samara, 3-4 cm long

### **ECOLOGICAL ROLE AND USE**

Provides shade and food for various animals and birds. Acts as a nurse crop for other species. It is a soil stabilizer and nutrient cycler. Provides timber for furniture-making and construction. Medicinal uses, including fever reduction and anti-inflammatory properties. Ornamental uses, including landscaping and avenue planting. It can control erosion and reforestation efforts.

### **INTERESTING FACT**

*Ailanthus excelsa* is considered an invasive species in many parts of the world, including the United States, due to its rapid growth rate, tolerance of poor soil conditions, and ability to outcompete native species.