



Ailanthus altissima

Common Name(s):

tree of heaven

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Features:

Smooth stems with pale grey bark, and twigs which are light chestnut brown, especially in the dormant season. Large compound leaves, 1-4 feet in length, are composed of 11-25 smaller leaflets and alternate along the stems. In late spring, clusters of small, yellow-green flowers appear near the tips of branches. (Jil Swearingen pers. com). The wood of ailanthus is soft, weak, coarse-grained, and creamy white to light brown in colour. All parts of the tree, specially the flowers, have a strong, offensive odour, which some have likened to peanuts or cashews. (Rod Randall's database)

Flowering:

October, November

Fruiting:

Autumn

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2478



Caption: Whanganui.

Photographer: Colin Ogle



Caption: Adaxial surface of leaf.
Whanganui.

Photographer: Colin Ogle