

Ligustrum lucidum 'Davison Hardy': 'Davison Hardy' Glossy Privet¹

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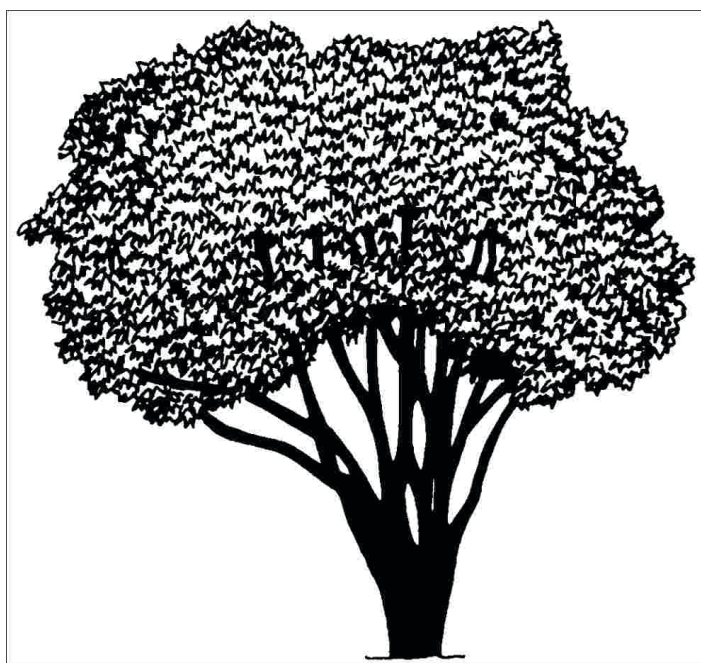


Figure 1. Mature *Ligustrum lucidum* 'Davison Hardy': 'Davison Hardy' Glossy Privet.

Introduction

This fast-growing evergreen tree, 25 to 40 feet in height (can grow larger) with a 25 to 35-foot spread, has a fairly dense canopy of bending branches composed of large, four to six-inch-long, glossy green leaves which have narrow, translucent margins. It may be the most available cultivar in the trade. Terminal, 6 to 10-inch-long, eye-catching panicles of small, white, malodorous flowers are produced

in late spring in the south and summer in the north. These blooms are followed in fall by large, showy clusters of small purple berries. The berries are popular with birds and the dispersed seeds germinate in the landscape and could become somewhat of a nuisance. Care must be taken in the location of this multitrunked tree since the profuse berry production can create a litter problem on hard surfaces. The fallen berries may stain car paint, walks, and patios.

General Information

Scientific name: *Ligustrum lucidum*

Pronunciation: lih-GUS-trum LOO-sih-dum

Common name(s): 'Davison Hardy' Glossy Privet, 'Davison Hardy' Tree Ligustrum

Family: *Oleaceae*

USDA hardiness zones: 5B through 11 (Figure 2)

Origin: not native to North America

Invasive potential: According to the IFAS Assessment of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas (IFAS Invasive Plant Working Group 2008), in Florida *Ligustrum lucidum* should be treated with caution, may be recommended but managed to prevent escape.

Uses: urban tolerant; Bonsai; deck or patio; street without sidewalk; screen; specimen; trained as a standard; container or planter; parking lot island < 100 sq ft; parking lot island 100–200 sq ft; parking lot island > 200 sq ft; tree lawn 3–4 feet wide; tree lawn 4–6 feet wide; tree lawn > 6 ft wide; highway median; shade

1. This document is ENH-514, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture, UF/IFAS Extension. Original publication date November 1993. Revised April 2007 and February 2013. Reviewed June 2016. Visit the EDIS website at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.

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Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree



Figure 2. Range

Description

Height: 25 to 40 feet
Spread: 25 to 35 feet
Crown uniformity: symmetrical
Crown shape: round, vase
Crown density: dense
Growth rate: moderate
Texture: medium



Figure 3. Foliage

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite (Figure 3)
Leaf type: simple
Leaf margin: entire
Leaf shape: ovate, lanceolate

Leaf venation: pinnate

Leaf type and persistence: evergreen, broadleaf evergreen

Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches, 4 to 8 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: no color change

Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: white/cream/gray

Flower characteristics: showy

Fruit

Fruit shape: oval, round

Fruit length: less than .5 inch

Fruit covering: fleshy

Fruit color: purple, blue

Fruit characteristics: attracts birds; showy; fruit/leaves a litter problem

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: branches droop; not showy; typically multi-trunked; thorns

Pruning requirement: needed for strong structure

Breakage: resistant

Current year twig color: green, gray

Current year twig thickness: medium

Wood specific gravity: unknown

Culture

Light requirement: full sun, partial sun or partial shade

Soil tolerances: sand; loam; clay; acidic; alkaline; well-drained

Drought tolerance: moderate

Aerosol salt tolerance: moderate

Other

Roots: not a problem

Winter interest: yes

Outstanding tree: no

Ozone sensitivity: unknown

Verticillium wilt susceptibility: susceptible

Pest resistance: resistant to pests/diseases

Use and Management

When growing on to a tree sized plant, be sure not to purchase those which were trained as a standard. These often have all branches originating from the same spot on the trunk, and are not well formed for longevity in the landscape. Trees trained as standards are high-maintenance

plants since they should be kept in this form and size for their entire life. Most nurseries grow Tree Ligustrum with several trunks originating close to the ground. They spread out from each other as they ascend into the rounded, vase-shaped canopy. These can be planted as street trees if lower branches are periodically removed when the tree is young.

Showing quick growth while young but slowing with age, Tree Ligustrum will grow in full sun or partial shade on various soil types, and is moderately salt-tolerant. The tree seems to thrive on neglect and is used along highways (unirrigated) as a screen for headlights. Clay soil and high pH do not seem to cause any problems as long as water drains away from the roots. Plant it as a street tree along boulevards where regular mowing will kill germinating seedlings and in locations where overhead space is limited. Mature specimens will require only light pruning to maintain shape and remove dead wood.

Many cultivars are available: 'Compactum' has dense leaves of dark, waxy green; 'Gracile' has closely-spaced erect branches; 'Macrophyllum' has large leaves while 'Microphyllum' has small leaves; 'Nigrifolium' has very dark green leaves; 'Nobile' has branches which are strongly ascending and fastigiate; 'Pyramidale' is narrowly conical in form; 'Recurvifolium' has recurved leaf margins; 'Repandum' has narrow leaves with waxy edges; and 'Tricolor' has leaves variegated with yellow and are pink when young.

Propagation is by seeds or grafting of cultivars. Plants are often grafted onto *L. quihoui* since Tree Ligustrum is resistant to propagation by cuttings. The abundant seedlings found under old trees can be transplanted and used as they are or as grafting stock.

Pests

Scales, white-flies, sooty-mold, and nematodes are problems but not serious.

Diseases

Root rot can be a problem in wet soil.

Literature Cited

Fox, A.M., D.R. Gordon, J.A. Dusky, L. Tyson, and R.K. Stocker. 2008. IFAS Assessment of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas: Status Assessment. Cited from the Internet (November 16, 2012), http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment/pdfs/status_assessment.pdf.