Camphor Tree

Today on Gardening in a Minute: camphor trees.

Camphor trees are an invasive species in north and central Florida. They have a fast growth rate and the ability to produce large amounts of seed. The seed is readily eaten and spread by birds.

This large, round-canopied, evergreen tree has broad, unusually strong branches. It can reach seventy feet in height.

A quick method for identifying camphor is by crushing the leaves or peeling a twig or piece of bark. This releases oils and the scent of camphor. Don’t confuse it with the native Red Bay which also smells similar.

Mowing can be an effective means of killing the seedling trees. Herbicides are an effective control method for trees and stumps.

If you live in north and central Florida, take notice of this tree and remove it from your landscape.

For more information about camphor tree and many other gardening topics, contact your county extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida’s Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.