



Telling the Privets Apart



< Big Leaf Privets: > LILU2 LIIA

Ligustrum lucidum -

Glossy Privet, Chinese Privet, Waxleaf

Shrub or tree – 20-30 ft (rarely to 50 ft)
 Flower – 5-8” terminal
 Fruit – dull blue-purple, 1/3 -1/2 “ oblong or obovoid
 Bigger Leaf - Larger leaf blades 3-6 inches
 More Veins - 6-8 ± distinct veins on each rib side
 Leaf blade acuminate – tapers gradually to a point at tip
 Leaf margin – revolute, often opaque whitish
 Leaf surface – hard, glossy, shiny – almost glows
 Leaf thickness – thinner, more flexible,
Key trait: leaf bends easily



Ligustrum japonicum

Japanese Privet, Wax-leaf

Shrub – 6-12 ft (rarely to 18 ft)
 Flower – 2-6” terminal
 Fruit – lustrous black, 1/4” oval-round
 Smaller Leaf – Larger leaf blades 2-4 inches
 Fewer Veins – 4-5 ± indistinct veins on each rib side
 Leaf blade slightly acuminate nearly obtuse – more rounded to point at tip
 Leaf margin – margin and midrib often reddish
 Leaf surface –glabrous, hard, lustrous dark green
 Leaf thickness – thicker, leathery, more rigid,
Key trait: leaf snaps when bent



Small leaf Privets:

Ligustrum quihoui - Quihou Privet

Flowers (fruit) **sessile** or subsessile – attached closely, no stalk

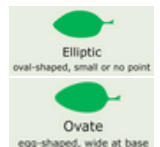
Leaves tapering at base – distinctly oblanceolate or lanceolate

Leaves very short-petioled;
 Branches nearly horizontal – very distinctive
 Semi-deciduous – may not drop leaves in winter, but displays spring new growth of leaves emerging around base of old leaves



Ligustrum sinense - Chinese Privet

Flowers (fruit) **pedicelled** – attached by short stalk or stem
Leaves cuneate (wedge-shaped) at base, usually not tapering
 Leaves short-petioled; rhombic-elliptic to ovate
Leaves usually pubescent (soft & fuzzy) on midrib beneath



Ligustrum vulgare – Common Privet

Similar to sinense
Leaves glabrous (hard & smooth) on midrib beneath.

