

NANDINA DOMESTICA THUNB.

Berberidaceae/Barberry Family

Common Name: Heavenly bamboo, nandina

Synonymy: None

Origin: India to east Asia

Botanical Description: Evergreen glabrous shrub to 1.8 m (6 ft) tall, growing in multi-stemmed clumps and perennating by rhizomes. Leaves alternate, large, 2-3 times odd-pinnately compound, i.e., usually with 3 primary divisions from petiole, having a somewhat lacy appearance and turning red in cool season. Leaflets 2-6 cm (1-2 in) long, narrowly ovate to lanceolate, tips with long acute taper, upper surfaces dark green (in growing season), sublustrous. Inflorescence a large, erect, stalked panicle, to 30 cm (1 ft) tall, from uppermost leaf axil of season; panicle branches usually purplish-red. Flowers small, bisexual, with petaloid parts pinkish white and anthers yellow. Fruit a bright red, 2-seeded globose berry, 6-12 mm in diameter.

Ecological Significance: Introduced to the United States for ornament in 1804 (Manks 1968). First noted as naturalized in woodlands of 3 counties in North Carolina (Radford *et al.* 1964). Noted for Florida in later works: in floodplains and secondary woods of Gadsden and Leon counties (Clewell 1985), in woodlands of northern Florida and adjacent Georgia and Alabama (Godfrey 1988). Presently reported for conservation areas in Jackson, Gadsden, Leon, Wakulla, and Citrus counties (EPPC 1996; E. Johnson, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 1994 personal communication). Forms dense groves in habitats of Florida Caverns State Park, displacing native vegetation, including the Florida-endangered red columbine, *Aquilegia canadensis* L., and the rare (in the wild) oak-leaf hydrangea, *Hydrangea quercifolia* Bartr. (Ludlow 1995). Still available for cultivation, but newer cultivars being offered that do not produce the bird-dispersed fruit (Kellum 1997).

Distribution: Native to central China and Japan and west to India (Chongxi and Foster 1992). Introduced in the southeastern United States, with seedlings frequent near plantings and mature plants found far from areas of current cultivation (Whetstone *et al.* 1997). In Florida, herbarium specimens deposited from Escambia, Gadsden, and Leon counties (Wunderlin *et al.* 1995).



Compound leaves, fruits

Life History: Can survive temperatures throughout Panhandle and peninsular Florida (Broschat and Meerow 1991). Grows in full sun to shade; propagated by division of clumps and by seed (Hunt 1977, Bailey and Bailey 1976). Seeds may take many months to germinate (M. Zeller, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 1997 personal communication) or 2 seasons, and difficult to induce germination under artificial conditions (Roger Newton, Hillsborough County Cooperative Extension Service, 1998 personal communication). Flowers in late spring; fruits in fall and winter. Fruits dispersed by birds, including mockingbirds, cedar waxwings, and robins (Kellum 1997) and cardinals (B. McCurnin, Tallahassee, 1997 personal communication); may be dispersed by small mammals as well, such as opossums and raccoons (Ludlow 1995). Cultivars Nana, Harbour Dwarf, and Firepower do not produce seed in nursery environment (Steve Kent, Tree of Life Nursery, 1998 personal communication).

KCB



In hammock, Leon County

KAL



Flowers