



Seaside Mahoe, *Thespesia populnea*

Native Range: Tropical seashores of Africa and India

Description: A dense, sprawling, often multi-trunked tree up to 50 feet tall. The dark green leaves are broad and heart-shaped. Flowers are a showy, hibiscus-like yellow but turn pink and red before falling. Fruit is a brown, multi-seeded capsule that contains several brown, hairy seeds.

Background: Introduced as an ornamental for coastal landscapes in the 1920's.



Ecological Threat: Invades shoreline habitats and can out compete native strand vegetation. The dense shade produced by its broad leaves enable it to take over large areas by

shading out its shoreline competitors. Seeds float in seawater and can be carried by currents to colonize distant shores.

Management Options: Cut down tree and immediately apply herbicide.

Warning! Use chemicals wisely. Always read labels carefully and follow all instructions, especially those regarding the use of protective gear and clothing.

