



From: Isolde Lawlor 205 Belsize Rd. NW6

This tree should be removed for the following reasons:

It is an undesirable species of tree, referred to as a weed by a tree surgeon who visited a few years ago. Please read the attachment which confirms this.

Our property is Victorian, its foundation only .5 metres deep, it stands on clay soil, and is very likely to get subsidence from the roots of this huge tree so close to it as mentioned in the Arboricultural Report.

It takes all daylight away downstairs, and most of it upstairs, our little patio at the back is so dark that no plants can thrive there any more.

In April of this year Camden Council removed an identical tree in their garden only 3 metres away because it had damaged a garden wall.

I would also like to mention that the photographs of the tree are out of date as it and its trunk are much larger now, I believe it grows approx. 2 metres each year.

For the above reasons I would ask you to remove the TPO on this tree and allow our landlord Genesis to get rid of it before it causes expensive damage to our building.

## The toxic Tree of Heaven threatens England's green and pleasant land

- Rob Davies
- The Observer, Sunday 17 September 2006

Britain faces a fate worthy of the Book of Revelation. According to botanists, the Tree of Heaven is set to make life hell on Earth for our gardeners.

*Ailanthus altissima*, which gets its heavenly nickname from its ability to grow rapidly to heights of 80 feet or more, has begun spreading alarmingly across the landscape and poses an imminent threat to plant health and biodiversity in Britain.

'Based on its impact in other countries and our increasingly mild climate, I believe it is serious,' Sara Redstone, Plant Health Officer at Kew Gardens, told The Observer. 'Amateur gardeners should be vigilant. Look out for sprouts and self-sown seedlings in your area and remove them.'

*Ailanthus altissima* is no newcomer to our shores, however. It was first brought to Britain from its native China in 1751. But botanists believe our increasingly warm summers and frost-free winters could lead to the tree becoming a serious environmental pest.

Using a strategy called allelopathy, *Ailanthus* leaks toxins into the ground which prevent the germination and establishment of other species in its vicinity. It is very tolerant of pollution and soil disturbance and at home in an urban habitat, earning it the nickname 'Ghetto Palm' in New York.

Sightings of the plant in British cities, in particular on land near railway tracks, have increased rapidly in recent months, suggesting that *Ailanthus* may be readying itself for a major expansion of its territories.

Unfortunately for those trying to tackle the plant, *Ailanthus* is also fiercely resistant to human intervention and will respond to cutting by throwing out underground suckers which can damage pavements, drainage systems and building foundations. All parts of the tree produce a nauseating odour suggestive of rancid cashew nuts.

The Environment Agency does not yet register *Ailanthus* as an invasive species, but it is included in the top 25 alien invasive plants listed by the European Plant Protection Organisation as posing 'an important threat to plant health, environment and biodiversity'.

This point was backed by Sara Redstone. 'We are learning all the time and plants can change their behaviour gradually, so it can be easy to miss the signs of a problem in the making. Gardeners are passionate about their gardens and the wider environment, so their help is going to be vital. We all need to work together.'

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk/2006/sep/17/ruralaffairs.theobserver>