

Botanical Name: Schinus polygamus

Common Name: Peruvian pepper tree

Type of Plant: dicot: tree Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape an upright to spreading, single or multi-trunked plant,
with fairly dense branching forming a mostly rounded canopy; the plant tends to
be shrub-like if left unpruned

Height 15-25' (30') Spread equal Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun; grows poorly in shaded locations

Soil tolerates most, including alkaline, dry soils

Hardiness hardy (zones 8-24); thrives in warm inland locations

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, alternate - whorled, oval-oblong; 1/2"-1" long,
fairly dark green (much different from other Schinus species)

Flowers dioecious; dense short panicles of small yellow flowers;
April-May

Fruit a berry; 1/4", deep purple in clusters

Propagation: seed

Usage: a small accent tree used for its multi-trunked form; often
as background screen or windbreak in desert areas

Landscape Care:

Watering an occasional deep soak; tolerates regular irrigation if
drainage is good

Fertilizing as needed; little required if plant is heavily irrigated

Pruning thin out as needed to expose primary framework

Pests/Diseases relatively free

Special Conditions

Origin: Peru Family: Anacardiaceae