

Botanical Name: Schinus terebinthifolius

Common Name: Brazilian pepper

Type of Plant: dicot: tree Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape has irregular growth; is mostly single-trunked, with stiff wide-spreading branches forming a dense rounded canopy; older branches develop a rough, dark gray bark; if left unpruned the plant tends to become bushy

Height 20-40' (50') Spread equal or more Growth Rate rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full or partial sun

Soil tolerates most, including dry alkaline soils

Hardiness hardy (zones 15-24); thrives in warm, sunny coastal locales

Morphology:

Leaves odd-pinnately compound, alternate, 5-10" long; has usually 7 (5-9) leaflets, elliptic-oblong, 1-3" long, shiny bright green

Flowers pinkish-white, tiny, in axillary or terminal 4-6" panicles; spring-summer (intermittent)

Fruit a drupe: small (1/16-1/8"), pinkish-red, fall-winter

Propagation: seed (very weedy, invasive)

Usage: a widely-used accent tree for attractive form, flowers and fruit; a medium-large scale shade tree, or lawn tree; plant has shallow, very aggressive roots (dries out the soil under tree); is very messy

Landscape Care:

Watering no special requirements, can tolerate both drought and heavy irrigation

Fertilizing as needed; check for chlorosis in wet clay soils

Pruning needs a frequent thinning out and reshaping

Pests/Diseases relatively free

Special Conditions removal is complicated by sprouting root pieces

Origin: Brazil Family: Anacardiaceae