

Botanical Name: Schinus molle

Common Name: California pepper

Type of Plant: dicot: tree Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape an erect, single or multi-trunked tree, with heavy scaffold branches and outer drooping branchlets forming a large, loose, rounded canopy; the bark is light brown, rough; plant becomes massive with age

Height 25-40' (50') Spread equal or more Growth Rate rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun preferred; tolerates partial at inland locations

Soil tolerates most except wet poorly drained clay soils

Hardiness hardy to 20 F (zones 8,9,12-24); thrives in hot desert

Morphology:

Leaves odd-pinnately compound, alternate, 10-18" long; of numerous lanceolate leaflets, each 1-2 1/2" long, with serrate margins; leaves have sap

Flowers dioecious; tiny white 5-petaled flowers; 10 stamens per flower; late spring

Fruit a drupe; rose-colored, 1/8" diameter, in clusters

Propagation: seed (can be very invasive)

Usage: a large-scale shade tree; widely used as a big accent tree for its spreading form, rugged branch structure, and light green foliage; best for informal landscapes where the messiness is not a problem

Landscape Care:

Watering little is needed; plant is very drought-tolerant after established, therefore desirable for water-conserving landscapes

Fertilizing very little is needed

Pruning stake and head high when young; remove suckers and deadwood

Pests/Diseases root rot in wet, poorly-drained soils

Special Conditions

Origin: Peru Family: Anacardiaceae