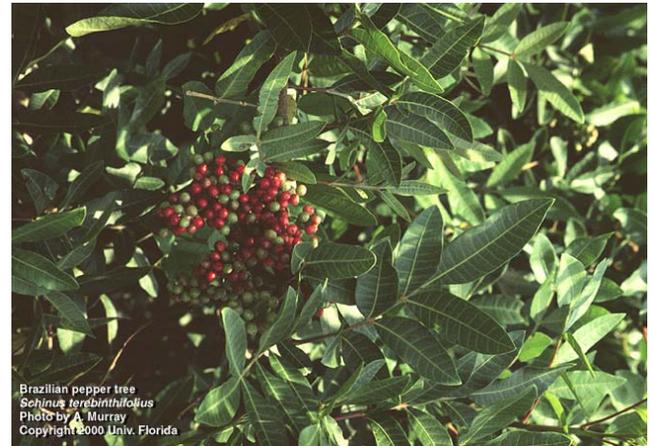


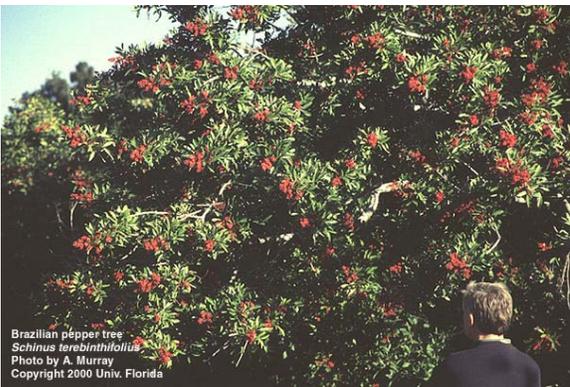
Invasive Species Profile: Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*)

Identifying Characteristics

Brazilian pepper is a large, multi-trunked shrub or tree with arching and crossing branches and can grow to 40 feet tall, forming thickets. Leaves are evergreen, glossy green, and alternate. Often toothed, the leaves are compound with 3 to 11 leaflets. The leaflets are generally elliptic to oblong and 1 to 2 inches long; they smell peppery or like turpentine when crushed. Female plants form small white flowers almost every month of the year, but most profusely in the fall season, when they produce clusters of red berries; this plant is commonly referred to as Florida Holly.



Brazilian pepper is a relative of poison ivy and poison sumac. Sap may irritate skin and pollen may cause respiratory irritation.



Habitat

Will readily invade residential and urban landscapes and other disturbed areas such as roadsides, ditches, and fallow farmland. Also invades undisturbed areas --- hardwood hammocks, mangrove forests, and pinelands.

Growth Habits

Found especially in moist, organic soils, but will grow in any soil type. Is tolerant of salt, flooding, fire, and drought. Sprouts easily from trunk to roots. Seeds spread by wildlife consumption.

Control Methods --- Cut-Stump or Basal Bark

If possible, schedule removals in late summer or early fall before new berries have ripened. **Note:** *Even the green berries will ripen after cutting the branch.* If hand-cutting, dig up as much of the root system as possible. Larger trees should be cut to the ground, and treat the stump immediately with triclopyr ester. Basal bark applications are also effective.

Florida-Friendly Replacements:

Necklace pod (*Sophora tomentosa*)

Dahoon holly (*Ilex cassine*)

Walter's viburnum (*Viburnum obovatum*)

Wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*)