



Brazilian Pepper, *Schinus terebinthifolius*

- Native Range:** Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay
- Description:** A bushy, spreading evergreen tree, often with multi-stemmed trunks and branches forming a tangled mass. Aromatic leaves form 3-inch long leaflets. Flowers are found in tiny, white clusters. Bright red berries resemble holly berries (this plant is also called Florida holly). Seeds are spread by wildlife.
- Background:** Imported as an ornamental in the 1840's.



- Ecological Threat:** Has invaded a variety of areas including farmland, pinelands, hardwood hammocks, roadsides, and mangrove forests. This aggressive plant out competes native vegetation, forming dense monocultures. It produces chemicals which appear to suppress the growth of other plants. It is fire resistant and salt-tolerant. Considered one of the most invasive plants in Florida. Chemicals in its leaves, flowers, and fruits can irritate human skin and respiratory passages.



- Management Options:**
- Biological**
No biological controls are currently available for the management of Brazilian pepper in the United States. Over 200 insects feed on Brazilian pepper trees in their native habitat, but scientists must prove that they are specific to the Brazilian pepper before releasing them here. Florida scientists have identified two insects that may be effective biological controls. Tests are still being conducted.



Brazilian Pepper killed by herbicide

- Chemical**
Using herbicides can aid in the control of Brazilian pepper. Only herbicides that are recommended for Brazilian pepper control should be used. Warning! Use chemicals wisely. Always read labels carefully and follow all instructions, especially regarding the use of protective gear and clothing.

