

Invasive Brazilian Pepper

Schinus terebinthifolia



***Brazilian Pepper* is considered one of the most detrimental and widespread invasive plants in Florida.**

Brazilian Pepper is an exotic plant that was brought to Florida in the 1800s and planted as an ornamental. It has invaded natural areas throughout Florida, including Pinellas County. Its spread is aided by birds that eat and distribute the attractive red berries as well as its aggressive growth pattern. With no natural predators, Brazilian Pepper continues to increase its footprint.

Brazilian Pepper is native to Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay.



NEGATIVE IMPACTS

- **Kills native plants** by forming dense thickets and releasing growth-inhibiting chemicals into the soil
- **Reduces biodiversity** by disrupting habitats that native wildlife depend on
- **Crowds out mangrove forests**, destroying important habitat for fish and shoreline wildlife
- **Can cause skin irritation** due to a chemical in its sap that is similar to the one found in the related plant, poison ivy

For more information, call (727) 464-7503
or visit www.pinellascounty.org/vegetation

INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

Brazilian Pepper



DESCRIPTION

Brazilian Pepper is an evergreen shrub-like tree with branches that arch and cross to form a tangled thicket. The leaves are oblong and shiny, dark green with light green veins. When crushed, they have a strong peppery or turpentine smell. In the late summer through early fall, Brazilian Pepper produces clusters of tiny, white, 5-petaled flowers. The flowers form round, bright red berries that cover the tree from December through February.



Brazilian Pepper flowers

! Remove Brazilian Pepper in your yard
Removal in Pinellas County may require a permit depending on your municipality. Check local ordinances or visit pinellascounty.org/drs/trees.htm for more info.

! Replace it with a Florida-friendly or native tree or shrub
Marlberry, Sweet Acacia, Simpson's Stopper, Fiddlewood and Varnish Leaf are some alternative native planting choices.

! Continue to remove and dispose of Brazilian Pepper seedlings that pop up
Seeds are only good in the soil for a few months but birds can readily re-distribute berries to your yard. ■