



Think Locally, Act Neighborly
Invasive exotic species know no boundaries!

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SOUTHWEST FLORIDA COOPERATIVE
INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT AREA

Take action! Invasive Plant of the Month: Brazilian pepper



J&D Grading and Environmental Inc.



Description:



Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) is a shrub that is best characterized by clusters of red berries that mature in late October and November and hang onto the tree through early spring. The leaves are alternate sets of 3-7 leaflets about 2 inches long with a white central vein. The small shrub can grow to a height of 40 feet, usually found growing in large patches underneath mature trees.

Impact to Ecosystems and southwest Florida residents:

Brazilian pepper invades the middle layer of forests and natural areas dominated by pine, oak, and cypress. The shrub also does well in ditches, fields, and areas left fallow. The shrub forms a dense layer and makes plant growth on the forest floor very difficult for native plants that are important food sources for wildlife.

The plant spreads as animals eat the fruits and pass the seeds in their scat. Over time, the dense thicket of Brazilian pepper will make natural regeneration in forests almost impossible, and will suppress necessary prescribed fire activity. Plant also re-sprouts from stumps cut without the use of herbicide.

A small percentage of people will react adversely to the sap of this plant and break out in itchy rashes.



Best ways to control: Visit www.floridainvasives.org for the latest control techniques. For seedlings, hand pulling is best, while larger plants require spraying the stem or cut stump treatments using approved herbicides. Plant something else after the work to remove if nothing is left to grow.

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10941 Palm Beach Blvd.
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Website:
www.floridainvasives.org

Don't confuse this plant with:

- Dahoon holly (small native tree)

Suggested Replacements:

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|------------------|----------------|
| wax myrtle | salt brush |
| green buttonwood | Florida privet |
| Simpson stopper | |