



PENNINGTON CONSERVANCY  
UMDONI

## PENNINGTON CONSERVANCY

P O Box 150, Pennington, 4184

[Penningtonconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:Penningtonconservancy@gmail.com)

[www.penningtonconservancy.org.za](http://www.penningtonconservancy.org.za)

## BRAZILIAN PEPPER TREE

---

*Schinus terebinthifolius*

Mango family (Anacardiaceae)

Afrikaans: Brasiliaanse peperboom

isiZulu: uthango, isibhaha

---

### Description:

- ❖ A shrub or small tree that reaches over 15 m in height, typically with a short trunk hidden in a thicket of branches
  - ❖ Some trees can live over 30 years
  - ❖ The leaves are alternately arranged with approx. 50 mm long, elliptic, and finely toothed leaflets
  - ❖ The leaves are also reddish, often possessing a reddish mid-rib and emit a strong mango smell when crushed
  - ❖ The flower clusters are white with male and female flowers that look very similar
  - ❖ The glossy fruits are borne in clusters that are initially green, becoming bright red when ripe
  - ❖ Seeds are dark brown and 0.3 mm in diameter
  - ❖ Flowering occurs from September through to March
  - ❖ Cara Category 1: Plant species that may not be grown and must be eradicated
- 

### Origin:

- ❖ Native to Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil
-

### **Reason for Introduction:**

- ❖ Shelter;
  - ❖ Hedging;
  - ❖ Shade;
  - ❖ Road screening;
  - ❖ Barrier plant; and
  - ❖ Ornamental purposes
- 

### **Where found / Problems caused:**

- ❖ Found throughout the KwaZulu-Natal coastal belt
  - ❖ Invades woodland, coastal bush, roadsides and river banks
  - ❖ Most problematical in wetlands and riverine areas
  - ❖ Competes with and replaces indigenous vegetation
- 

### **Did you know?:**

- ❖ Fruit used for producing red pepper
  - ❖ Can be toxic if eaten in quantity
  - ❖ Birds are major dispersers of the seeds through their eating of the fruit and have contributed to the spread of this invasive species
  - ❖ A declared Category 1 invasive plant in KwaZulu-Natal and Category 3 invasive plant in the rest of South Africa
- 

### **Control:**

- ❖ Try to avoid cutting
  - ❖ Hand-pull seedlings
  - ❖ Triclopyr (butoxy ethel ester) 240g/\_EC or 480g/\_EC in diesel
  - ❖ Ensure wetting of the root crown, exposed roots and stem up to a height of 25 cm
-



Duncan Robertson ©



©2008 Jeffrey Pippen



Copyright Ed Weislo  
floridasnature.com



### **Additional General Information:**

“Globally, invasive alien species are considered, after direct habitat destruction, to be the second biggest threat to biodiversity and its ability to deliver high quality environmental goods and services. A biological diversity of organisms and species maintains our ecosystems and it is these ecosystems that ensure a sustainable supply of environmental goods and services.” WESSA-KZN

---

### **Acknowledgements:**

The Pennington Conservancy acknowledges with sincere thanks the assistance received from various sources in the preparation of this leaflet.

- ❖ The Mtunzini Conservancy for the idea
  - ❖ Invasive Alien Plants in KwaZulu-Natal Management and Control: A Wildlife Handbook, produced by WESSA-KZN
  - ❖ <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/node/405>
  - ❖ <http://www.duke.edu/~jspippen/plants/schinus-terebinthifolius081231-7433collier.coz.jpg>
  - ❖ <http://www.biodiversityexplorer.org/plants/anacardiaceae/schinus.htm>
  - ❖ [http://www.biodiversityexplorer.org/plants/anacardiaceae/schinus\\_terebinthifolius.htm](http://www.biodiversityexplorer.org/plants/anacardiaceae/schinus_terebinthifolius.htm)
- 

It is hoped that this series will create awareness in respect of Invasive Alien Plants and guide and advise us in terms of what is required to control and manage these plants

---

Should you have any questions or require further clarity, please contact:

[penningtonconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:penningtonconservancy@gmail.com)

---

### **Disclaimer:**

Although every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and completeness, neither the Pennington Conservancy, nor any person or entity involved with the compilation of this 12 part series, accept any accident arising from the use of the products noted or guidelines provided

---