

Schinus mole – Pepperina / Chilean Pepper Tree

An evergreen small tree native to Southern and Western America, growing 6 to 8m tall with a multi-branching crown and an attractive weeping habit of dark green feathery/ferny foliage that is aromatic. Small white flowers are produced in long panicles at the ends of branches in Spring to Autumn which are then followed by round shiny pink to red berries that hang down from the tree giving a lovely contrast against the foliage.

The trunk is interesting and becomes gnarled and burls as it ages – great for Bonsai!

Schinus mole is wind and frost tolerant and can grow on stony sites and steep slopes. It is a great choice for the subtropics, as a feature tree, screen or a Bonsai specimen.

Note that the tree sap can cause dermatitis so be sure to take care when handling.

Propagation

Soak seeds from 12 to 48 hours to remove sticky coating on the seeds – check during this process and continue when you think it is ready.

Sow in a light and well drained propagation mix, just covered with mix, perlite or sand and keep moist but not wet out of direct sunlight.

When seedlings are about 7.5cm tall, separate and pot into individual pots.

*It has been noted that Acid scarification can increase germination rates.