

## Environmental Weed Alert.



### **Broad Leafed Pepper Tree**

*Schinus terebinthifolia*

**Description:** The Broad-leaf pepper tree, also known as the Brazilian pepper tree is an invasive tree that can grow up to 15m in height. It is fast growing with multiple stems and alternate dark green leaves with 4-12 opposite leaflets. It has small, greenish yellow flowers that are followed by clusters of green berries each 4-5mm in diameter that turn red. Birds and water spread the red berries so the Broad-leaf pepper tree is found along watercourses and in wetlands along the coast. Originally introduced from South America it has infested large parts of Queensland and New South Wales. It is now declared a noxious weed (W2) under the Noxious Weeds Act (1993) requiring it to be fully and continually suppressed and destroyed. The Broad-leaf pepper tree is regarded as a major threat to our native vegetation and the agricultural industry. It can rapidly colonise and form dense thickets dominating the vegetation. Unfortunately it is well spread through Ballina partly by residents as an ornamental tree. There are many other very attractive native alternatives to this invasive tree. They include the Blueberry Ash (*Elaeocarpus reticulatus*), the Blue Lilly Pilly (*Syzygium oleosum*), the Native Frangipani (*Hymenosporum flavum*) and the Bleeding Heart (*Omalanthus populifolius*).

**Control:** The Broad-leaf pepper tree contains toxic resins and is considered poisonous to both humans and animals so it should be dealt with carefully. The tree is related to Poison Ivy and the bark and sap can cause severe health problems. It is a difficult weed to control with many root suckers. Importantly avoid contact with the sap. As a noxious weed, control lies with the landowner/occupier. For small seedlings, remove by hand and digging. Larger trees usually require a registered herbicide control either as a foliar spray, stem injection or painting the stump. If unsure please contact the NSW Far North Coast Weeds Authority on ph 66233833.