

Brazilian pepper identification
Schinus terebinthifolius



Native range

Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay

Description

Brazilian pepper is an evergreen tree or shrub. The branches form a nearly impenetrable tangle to ground level. The oblong leaves are dark green with lighter, obvious veins. These compound leaves, which grow in odd numbers, emit a strong smell of turpentine when crushed. The flowers are small, less than a tenth of an inch in diameter, and have five green tinged, white petals. The tree is covered with round, bright red fruit between December and February.



For more information about
Brazilian pepper and other
invasive species,
please contact:



Marine Discovery Center Inc.
162 N. Causeway
New Smyrna Beach FL 32169
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Environmental Management

**Growth and Resource
Management Department**

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DeLand, FL. 32720
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volusiaestuaries.org
volusia.org/environmental

Sign up for our listserv at:
<http://volusia.org/environmental/listserv.htm>

Volusia County invasive plants



**Brazilian pepper
invasion**



Natural shoreline



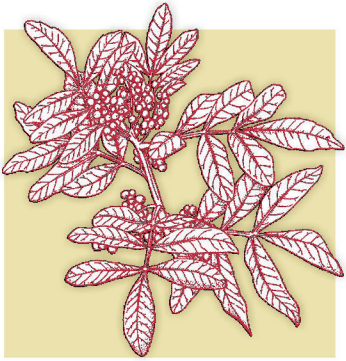
It's in our hands

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**Volusia County Government
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Brazilian pepper



Schinus terebinthifolius

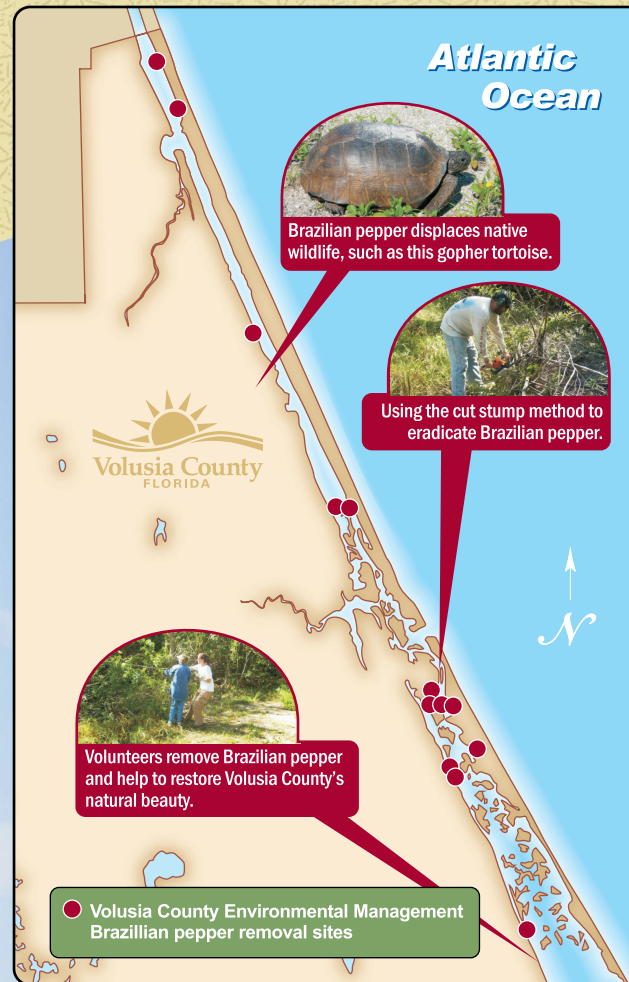
Related to poison ivy, Brazilian pepper, is an exotic plant that is invading our native ecosystems. It first was introduced in the 1800's, but now has spread out of control, invading every city in Volusia County. It has an aggressive growth pattern that is threatening native plant and wildlife populations. The bright red berries are distributed widely by birds and other wildlife.

Florida has no natural predators to keep this invasive species under control.

Impacts of Brazilian pepper

- **Brazilian pepper kills other vegetation** by forming dense thickets and by chemically suppressing the growth of understory plants.
- **This harmful plant reduces biodiversity** by destroying the food and shelter upon which native wildlife depends.
- **Brazilian pepper invasion damages shorelines** by destroying essential fish breeding habitat.
- **It can cause skin irritation** and may have a toxic effect on wildlife.

Exotic vegetation removal projects within Volusia County



Property owners wishing to remove Brazilian pepper or other exotic plants first should contact Volusia County Environmental Management at (386) 736-5927 to determine if the activity requires a permit.

It's in our hands



The following methods can be used to remove Brazilian pepper trees and help to keep Volusia County waterways in our hands:

Basal bark application

- Basal bark applications are made by applying herbicide in a wide band around the base of each trunk. The tree will die within several weeks from the application.
- This method is most effective in the fall when trees are flowering. This may be the best method to use if the Brazilian peppers are growing close to other native plants whose removal is not desired.

Cut stump treatment

- For this method, a chainsaw is used to cut the trunk close to the ground.
- Herbicide must be applied to the stump within five minutes of cutting.
- The tree remains may be left on the ground as branches, mulched, or taken to the landfill. Stumps can be shaved to the ground.
- The best time to use this method is when the trees are not fruiting because berries can be spread easily through handling.

Foliar application

- This method involves applying a diluted herbicide to the leaves of the tree. Spraying should be directed at individual plants.
- Foliar application requires significantly more herbicide than the other methods, and nontarget vegetation often is eradicated as well. This method is not recommended in windy conditions.

