

Christmas berry* (*Schinus terebinthifolius*)



Christmas berry flowering



Christmas berries



Christmas berry choking vines

*** Also known as Brazilian pepper tree**

Christmas berry, also known as Brazilian pepper tree for the aromatic smell of its leaves, is an evergreen shrub or tree up to 6m tall. The plant is not particularly cold-hardy. It can create dense thickets in both aquatic margins and terrestrial areas.

The tree's short trunk is usually hidden by dense and intertwining branches. Reddish leaves, sometimes with winged midribs, have 3-13 finely toothed leaflets. Its white flowers produce short-branched clusters of glossy green, juicy fruit that turn bright red and desiccate into a papery shell surrounding the single seed. The seed is spread by birds and other wildlife, and also by humans who use the branches and fruit for decorative purposes.

This plant is very uncommon in the wild, but has the potential to become a very serious problem. Any suspected occurrences should be reported to your Regional Council.