

Peruvian Pepper Tree

(Schinus Molle)



Pepper trees are native to South America but are sometimes called the California pepper. Their aggressive growth enables them to displace native trees and form dense thickets in natural areas. They produce undesirable suckering and sprout unwanted seedlings. Despite its name, Peruvian pepper is not related to black pepper, nor is it a true pepper at all.

You can pick a couple of well-fruited branches, harvest the berries and lay them out to dry at room temperature. In a few days, your forage find will turn into a handful of fragrant pink peppercorns!

Sign Sponsor: SLO County Parks. Comments Welcome: slosaul@gmail.com

