

Cal-IPC > Responsible Landscaping > Don't Plant a Pest > **Southern California Trees**

Don't Plant a Pest

Trees of the Southern California region

Choose another plant type for Southern California

Invasive plants are listed in red boxes. Alternatives are listed below in green.

Invasive plants that are also a fire hazard are identified by this symbol: 

INVASIVE! DO NOT PLANT! INVASIVE!



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myoporum

Myoporum laetum



Invades along the coast from Sonoma County to San Diego. Forms dense stands with no other vegetation. Can cover large areas. Spread by birds. Leaves and fruits are toxic to wildlife and livestock. Burns easily. Doesn't typically spread in interior areas.

Invasive! Do Not Plant! Invasive!



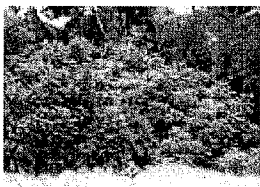
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Brazilian pepper, Peruvian pepper or California pepper

Schinus terebinthifolius or *Schinus molle*

Pepper trees are native to South America (despite the fact that Peruvian peppertree is sometimes called California peppertree). Seeds are transported by birds and mammals into natural areas. The aggressive growth of peppers enables them to displace native trees and form dense thickets in natural areas. They produce undesirable suckering and sprout unwanted seedlings. A serious problem in southern California. Less of a problem in the San Francisco Bay Area and Central Valley, but care should be taken if planting near wildlands.

Invasive! Do Not Plant! Invasive!



[More/larger photos](#)

tree of heaven

Ailanthus altissima

Although not commonly sold in nurseries, this tree is sometimes "shared" among gardeners. Tree-of-heaven produces abundant root sprouts that create dense thickets and displace native vegetation. These root sprouts can be produced as far as 50 feet away from the parent tree. In California, it is most abundant along the coast and Sierra foothills, as well as along streams. A single tree can produce up to a million seeds per year.

Invasive! Do Not Plant! Invasive!

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