

Brazilian Pepper Tree, *filfil arid*

Schinus terebinthifolius is the Brazilian Pepper Tree, and like its relative is also known in Arabic as *filfil-arid*. It comes originally from Brazil. It prefers humid, tropical to Mediterranean climatic zones, and is relatively successful in Arriyadh, probably more so than *S. molle*. The tree reaches a height of 9 metres, with a similar width. It has an open, umbrella-shaped crown. The foliage is evergreen. The leaves are alternate, imparipinnate, entire and lanceolate to ovate in shape. The small white flowers appear in panicles; from these flowers, the tree develops the typical rose-pepper fruits. Propagation can be done by sowing and cuttings. The Brazilian Pepper requires full sun, but some humidity in Arriyadh, regular irrigation and has medium tolerance to salinity, thriving on most soils with good drainage. It is, however, not absolutely hardy. It can withstand temperatures down to 5°C, but is susceptible to cool, dry winds on the outskirts of Arriyadh. The Brazilian Pepper is a good ornamental tree in frost-free regions, thanks to its lush green foliage and fruits. In Arriyadh, sheltered locations should be selected for landscape planting. It can be used in public open spaces, park planting and in pedestrian precincts. Maintenance is minimal: consideration should be given to the possible litter from fruit drop, wind damage and the tree's invasive root system. With its dense foliage canopy, it can also be recommended as a shade tree along pathways or as a small tree for a patio or garden and a slope stabiliser.



GENERAL

Origin	: Mediterranean, sub-tropical, tropical
Vigour	: normal growth rate
Humidity	: very humid, extremely humid
Propagation	: sowing and pricking out, cuttings
Maintenance	: moderate

CONDITIONS

Urban climate	: resistant
Dessication	: vulnerable
Stagnant water	: vulnerable
Irrigation	: high
Salinity/ppm	: high (4500 ppm)
Hardiness	: 0°C

SHAPE0

Type	: tree
Height	: 5 m-9 m
Spread	: 7 m-10 m
Foliage	: evergreen

FLOWER

Colour	: white
Size	: 5 cm - 15 cm
Period	: March - May
Smell	: aroma, moderate, leaf

FRUIT

Type of fruit	: drupe(fleshy/ juicy)
Fruit size	: 0.5 cm - 0.7 cm
Toxicity	: edible when processed, fruit, root