

# Schinus molle

*Anacardiaceae*

Peru, Andes

Ar: *Felfel-kazib*

Eng: *Pepper tree*

Tg: *Berbere-tselim*

Tr: *Etset ferfer*

**Ecology:** An evergreen tree commonly planted in dry warm climates throughout the world. It will grow in almost any soil but prefers well-drained sites. It is extremely drought-resistant once established and reaches maturity in less than 20 years. It grows from near sea level to 2,400 m. In Eritrea, it was introduced as an ornamental and is common in the midlands and highlands around homesteads and along roads.

**Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, bee forage, soil conservation, **ornamental, shade, windbreak**, spice (fruit), insect repellent (leaves).

**Description:** A tree with attractive light **weeping foliage** to 15 m, the trunk short, the crown spreading. **BARK:** Dark brown, peeling, **very sticky latex** forms if the bark is damaged. **LEAVES:** Compound to 30 cm, many **narrow leaflets to 7 cm**, with a peppery smell if crushed. **FLOWERS:** Very small, green-yellow. **FRUIT:** Hanging on female trees, small **round berries green to red then black**, edible.

**Propagation:** Seedlings.

**Seed:** Germination rate 40-80%. No. of seeds per kg: 31,000-44,000.

**treatment:** Not necessary.

**storage:** Seed can be stored in air-tight containers.

**Management:** A fast-growing tree. Pollarding, lopping and coppicing.

**Remarks:** The tree should not be planted too close to buildings because branches tend to fall as the tree ages.

