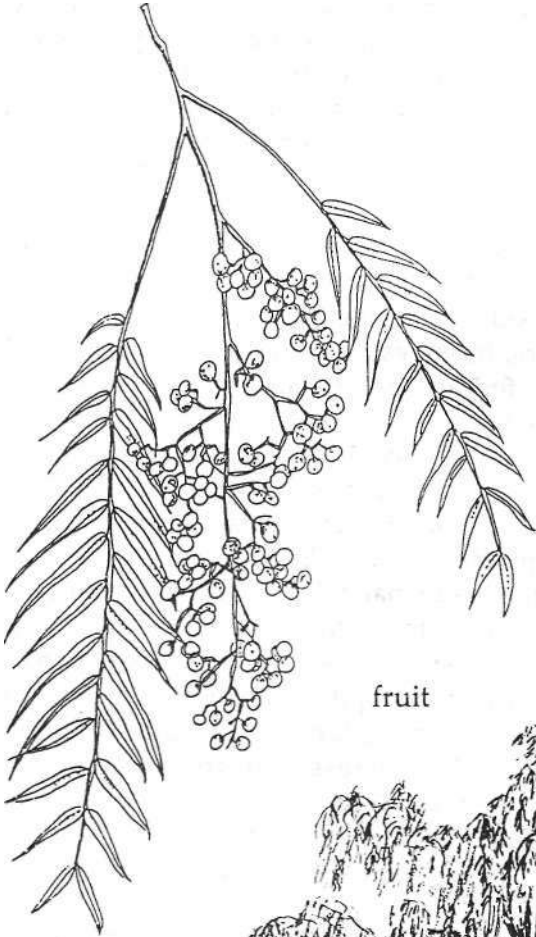


## Schinus molle

*Anacardiaceae*

Peru, Andes

- Common names: Eng: pepper tree, Peruvian mastic; Swah: mpilipili.
- Ecology: An evergreen tree commonly planted in dry warm climates throughout the world and in most districts of Tanzania, almost naturalized in places. Tolerant of most soils, including dry sands and black cotton, 0-2,400 m. Extremely drought resistant once established and reaches maturity in less than 20 years.
- Uses: Firewood, charcoal, posts, spices (fruit, leaves), medicine, bee forage, shade, ornamental, soil conservation, windbreak, gum, live fence.
- Description: A tree with 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 info.: No. of seeds per kg: 31,000-44,000. Germination rate 40%-80% in 10-30 days. Sun-dried fruit are pounded in a pestle and mortar, then winnowed to separate the seeds from the fruit pulp.
- treatment: not necessary.
- storage: seed can be stored if kept insect free.
- Management: Fast growing; pollarding, lopping, coppicing.
- Remarks: The tree should not be planted too close to buildings due to falling branches as the tree ages. It is shallow rooted and liable to be blown over. The wood is termite resistant.



fruit

