Schinus terebinthifolius

Brazilian peppertree, Christmasberry, wilelaiki

Schinus terebinthifolius Raddi

Family: Anacardiaceae

Description: Small tree to 20 ft tall, bark dark, slightly rough. Leaves alternate, pinnately compound with ~7 leaflets each about 3 inches by 1.25 inches wide, terminal leaflet largest. Flowers in clusters, greenish white; male and female trees separate. Fruit a cluster of bright red "berries," papery hull, single seed per berry. Fruits in fall and winter, hence the name "Christmasberry." A local political figure, Willie Rice, used to wear the berries on his hat, hence the name "wilelaiki"[59]. The seed is also used as a condiment, which accounts for the name "Brazilian peppertree." The resinous sap is aromatic. *Schinus* a Greek name for another resinous tree; *terebinthifolius*, turpentine leaves, referring to the aromatic leaves[5, 70].

Distribution: Native of Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay. An attractive ornamental, it has been introduced to subtropical areas worldwide[60]. Widespread throughout Hawai'i in mesic to dry areas. Dense infestations in wasteland in Ka'ū on Hawai'i. Also a serious problem in Florida and Australia.

Environmental impact: Grows densely in drier mesic pastures and forests. Related to the mango and poison ivy. Pollen can cause respiratory problems and sap can cause rash. The seed, a condiment, is known to kill raccoons, deer, and horses[75].

Management: Cattle avoid Christmasberry but birds spread the seed. Seeds do not germinate while in the fruit and will retain viability no more than 9 months. Thus ingestion by birds is critical not only for dispersal but for pulp removal and germination[60]. This suggests that eradicating small, isolated stands is possible. Sensitive to foliar applications of imazapyr and to foliar and cut-surface applications of triclopyr, dicamba, and glypho-sate, and to basal bark applications of triclopyr. Not sensitive to 2,4-D. Sensitive to soil applications of tebuthi-uron and hexazinone[16]. Kline and Duquesnel[30] reported excellent control with triclopyr ester/oil applied basal bark at 10% of product, triclopyr amine at 50% of product in water applied to cut surfaces, and imazapyr at 1% of product in water applied as foliar sprays. HAVO staff reported control with triclopyr ester at 5% of product in diesel oil applied to basal bark (Chris Zimmer, HAVO). Good control was achieved with high-volume foliar application of a 1% solution of triclopyr amine product. The National Park Service in Big Cypress National Preserve, Florida, used high-volume spraying of triclopyr ester at 2.5 lb/acre. For plants close to native ones, basal bark treatments are made with a 20% triclopyr ester product in oil[3]. Reported sensitive to cut-surface applications of dicamba, glyphosate, and picloram[45]. Goats will control Christmasberry (An Peischel).