

Brazilian Pepper-Trees



Brazilian pepper-trees can be controlled by cutting them down and treating the stumps with herbicide. A saw should be used to cut the trunk as close to the ground as possible. Within 5 minutes, an herbicide that contains the active ingredients glyphosate or triclopyr should be applied as carefully as possible to the thin layer of living tissue, called the cambium, which is just inside the bark of the stump.

The best time to cut Brazilian pepper-trees is when they are not fruiting because seeds contained in the fruits have the capability of producing new Brazilian pepper-trees. If the trees are cut when berries are present, care should be taken not to spread the fruits to locations where they can cause future problems.

Avoid touching the tree's cambium. A rash can result for certain individuals who are more sensitive, even from touching only the leaves. Use proper protective gear when sawing the tree and applying the herbicides.

These are some of the negative effects of the Brazilian pepper-trees:

- **They kill other vegetation** by forming dense thickets and by chemically suppressing the growth of understory plants.
- **They cut down on kinds and total numbers of wildlife** by destroying their usual food and shelter.
- **They hurt shorelines** by disturbing natural fish-breeding habitat. They crowd out valuable mangroves. Their shallow roots allow erosion.
- **They are members of the same family as poison ivy, poison oak, and poison sumac.** Any part of the plant can cause skin irritation for certain individuals.