Japanese pepper
(*Schinus terebinthifolius*)

**FAMILY:** Anacardiaceae  
**STATUS:** Alien, serious environmental weed (invasive and presence dramatically alters ecology)².

**TYPE:** Erect/sprawling, perennial shrub/tree.

**IDENTIFICATION:** *Schinus terebinthifolius* (Japanese pepper) can be distinguished by branchlets not hanging, leaves and also the bright red fruits smell peppery when they are crushed¹.

**DESCRIPTION:** Japanese pepper is an erect tree or sprawling shrub that can grow up to 15 metres tall, but more commonly to 6 metres. Male trees produce small cream flowers in late summer, whilst the female trees produce the bright red fruit that is 1-seeded³.

**DISTRIBUTION:** Japanese pepper originates from Brazil³.

**PREFERRED HABITAT:** Japanese pepper has escaped from cultivation and can be found in areas that are disturbed³, but can invade a number of natural environments¹.

**KNOWN LOCATIONS IN WA:**
Japanese pepper has been recorded around Geraldton, Perth and in the Goldfields³.

**THREAT/IMPACT:** Environmental
Japanese pepper can dominate ecosystems preventing growth of native species¹. Berries are most likely spread by birds so they can be transported over long distances³.

**References**