

Zanthoxylum - Growing Guide

Growing Zanthoxylum

While one could very easily be put off growing these trees because of their huge, flattened, chubby, rose-like spines we have persevered here at Caerhays to produce some fine small trees which, after 20 years of growth in full sun in the open, now have attractive foliage and a huge crop of pepper fruits for which we have managed to find a small commercial market. The trees have developed a mounded, spreading, dome like shape and we would recommend *Zanthoxylum piperitum* (Japan pepper) and *Zanthoxylum simulans* which we believe will grow in popularity and in garden use.

Interestingly the last two decades have seen the arrival of new species of *Zanthoxylum* from China and North Vietnam which have equally horrid spines but may yet have other attributes in the garden.

Burncoose Nurseries offers *Zanthoxylum piperitum* in an attractive purple leaved form from China and Japan. It is a deciduous shrub, becoming a small tree, with pinnate glossy leaves of up to 6in in length. Each leaf has 11 to 23 ovate toothed leaflets which turn yellow in autumn. In June this plant produces panicles of small cup shaped yellowish-green flowers. These are followed by reddish fruits which turn into black seeds which hold on the bush or small tree. They are used in medicine and as a peppery condiment in some Japanese dishes.



Zanthoxylum piperitum



Zanthoxylum piperitum



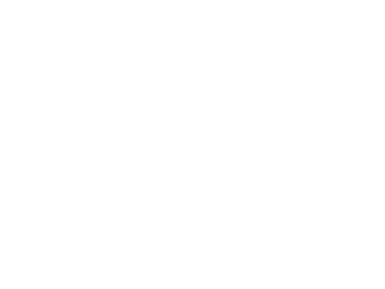
Zanthoxylum piperitum



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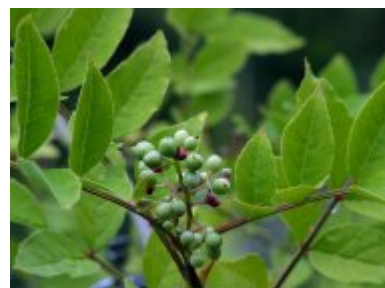
Zanthoxylum piperitum



Zanthoxylum simulans



Zanthoxylum simulans



Zanthoxylum simulans



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Zanthoxylum simulans



Zanthoxylum



Zanthoxylum



Zanthoxylum



Zanthoxylum armatum



Zanthoxylum armatum



Zanthoxylum koreanum

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