

Root Beer



Common Name: Root Beer Plant, Hoja Santa, or Mexican Pepperleaf

Botanical Name: *Piper Auritum*

Blooms: Has a rat-tail like cylindrical green spike with white-green sessile flowers

Foliage: Evergreen in tropics; freezes back here but comes back each year

Height: Up 10 feet

Width: 3 feet +

Light: Partial Shade to full shade

Water: Needs regular irrigation to produce the most luxuriant foliage

Propagation: Root division (underground rhizomes) or seed

Note: A herbaceous perennial native to Mexico; cold hardy in USDA zones 10-11; root hardy in zones 8-9. Use in a tropical landscape. Very large heart shaped leaves. Some consider it invasive. Most portions of the plant smell strongly of root beer; utilize leaves for root beer flavoring in various dishes or use as wrap for meats and fish.