



## Chinese Pistache, *Pistacia chinensis*

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### Summary

**Foliage:** About 10 inches long; alternate, pinnately compound leaves; deciduous

**Height:** About 30 feet

**Spread:** About 30 feet

**Shape:** Oval-round to round

### Main Features

Chinese pistache is a medium-size shade tree. It is quite tolerant of full sun, hot, and dry conditions (once established). This species has separate male and female plants (dioecious); female plants (if male trees are present) will produce clusters of reddish pea-size fruit that are somewhat attractive. A major claim to fame is the relatively long-lasting very showy orange-red fall foliage color. Fall foliage color will vary from tree to tree. This species is marginally hardy in zone 6a (winter temperatures less than minus 5 degrees F) but is well suited to the heat of the southern US.

### Plant Needs

**Zone:** 6b to 9

**Light:** Full sun

**Moisture:** Average to dry

**Soil type:** Most soils

**pH range:** Acid to alkaline

### Functions

Chinese pistache is a medium shade tree suitable for sites that have less than ideal growing conditions.

### Care

Young trees tend to have an irregular branch structure that gives trees an irregular appearance, but this trait is not evident when trees mature; pruning young trees to develop a good branch structure will improve the future appearance. Chinese pistache has no major pest problems.

### Additional Information

There are very few cultivars in the trade. Chinese pistache is related to the edible pistachio tree species (*Pistacio vera*).