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*).