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Pistacia chinensis

[Synonyms : *Pistacia chinensis* fo. *latifoliolata*, *Pistacia formosana*, *Pistacia philippinensis*, *Rhus argyi*, *Rhus gummifera*]

CHINESE PISTACHE is a deciduous tree. Native from Afghanistan to China and the Philippines, it has leaflets that turn orange, red and crimson in Autumn and inconspicuous flowers.

It is also known as Chinese mastic, Chinese pistachio, Pistache, *Pistachier de Chine* (French), Pistachio nut tree, and Pistachio tree.

Chinensis means ‘of or from China’.

For the Chinese the young shoots and leaflets offer a vegetable. The roasted seeds have also been eaten, alone or in confectioneries.

The hard and durable wood has provided material for general carpentry, and for making rudder posts and furniture.

Some authorities have noted that the brilliant Autumn foliage has often been portrayed by Chinese artists.

In the south-eastern Asian region some authorities contend that the tree is primarily valued for its timber and suggest that the resin-producing properties are of secondary importance there.

Chinese pistache was introduced to the United States in 1890 and it can sometimes be seen today in some of the southern states growing as a shade tree, especially in parks (because of its size).