PLANT FACT SHEET

Pistacia chinensis Bunge

GENUS *Pistacia* **FAMILY** Anacardiaceae

COMMON NAMES Chinese pistachio

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Leaves, Nuts

The young shoots and leaves are cooked as a vegetable. They are also used for tea.
The nuts are roasted and eaten. They are also used in confectionary.

DESCRIPTION

A large tree which loses its leaves. It grows 8-25 m high and spreads 4.5 m wide. The trunk can be 1 m across. It can have small buttresses. The leaves have leaflets along the stalk. There are 10-12 leathery leaflets which are dark green. They turn yellow or orange in the autumn. The flowers are small and near the ends of shoots. They are reddish. The fruit are reddish or bluish berries.

HABITAT

A Mediterranean climate plant. It grows in mountain forests and on rocky soils between 100-3,600 m above sea level. It is drought resistant and tolerant of cold. It can grow in poor acid or alkaline soils. It suits hardiness zones 7-10. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In China plants flower in March to May and fruit August to November.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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