PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Cotinus coggygria* Scop.

**GENUS** *Cotinus* **FAMILY** Anacardiaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Smoke tree, Venetian sumach

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Leaves, Shoots, Fruit

The young leaves are eaten as a potherb. They are boiled or stir fried.
The fruit are edible.

## DESCRIPTION

A rounded shrub. It grows 3-4.5 m tall. It loses its leaves during the year. They turn rich red before falling. The leaves are oval and green. They are about 7 cm long. They do not have teeth. They have long stalks. The flowers have smoky plumes with a pink tint which turns grey. These are in lax panicles 15-20 cm long. This is due to the fine thread like dull purple branches. The flowers and fruit are very small. The fruit are dry and flattened. They are kidney shaped and 3-4 mm long.

## HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is frost hardy. They suit places with warm dry summers. In the Himalayas it grows between 760-1,520 m above sea level. In China (var. glaucophylla) grows between 1,300-2,400 m altitude in southern China. It can tolerate drought. It grows well in sunny places. It suits hardiness zones 5-10. At Anvers Chocolate factory. Arboretum Tasmania. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

They can be grown from softwood cuttings. They can also be grown from seed or suckers.

### Harvesting and Seed Production

It is quick growing.

## NOTES

There are 3 Cotinus species. Volatile oils in the leaves contain pinene and camphene.

## PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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