



DLC RESOURCES, INC.

CHINESE PISTACHE

The Chinese Pistache tree (*Pistacia chinensis*), is a drought tolerant, ornamental shade tree. When planting a Pistache tree, make sure to plant it in well drained soil to prevent root rot, which can kill your tree. This tree does well in full sun and requires little water once established. The Chinese Pistache is known for its relatively quick growth of 2 – 3 feet a year, oval shaped canopy and long lifespan. This tree can grow to 25 – 35 feet high and 30 feet wide at maturity. Expect bright green blooms with your dark green leaves in late spring, April and May, and vibrant orange and red fall color. There are both male and female varieties of the Pistache tree; however, fruit is only produced by the females. The Chinese Pistache is commonly known as a wiry tree in its adolescent years that matures into a lush, full shade tree.



During the first year of growth, it is recommended to leave as many limbs on the tree for as long as possible, including those growing up and down the trunk. Retaining extra limbs provides the maximum amount of leaf surface to manufacture food. This enables the trunk of a young tree to grow stronger more rapidly. However, some pruning may be required. This includes removing dead or broken branches, a competing leader or branches touching the ground. Ideally, you should avoid pruning in the first year unless absolutely necessary since trees are best left unpruned until after their first year of growth.

During the second and third years of growth, trees still require minimal pruning. They continue to need the maximum amount of leaf surface to produce energy. There are specific things to focus on when pruning a tree during this growth period. Make sure branches are not touching; rubbing branches can result in open wounds that may lead to disease. Remove only the bottom branches roughly to knee height. You can also start to thin the canopy by taking out a few branches here and there so your tree will be able to better withstand the monsoon winds. Remember, it is important to prune cautiously as it takes years for a tree to develop strong trunk and branch structure.

