

Pistacia terebinthus

(Turpentine tree, terebinth tree)

Pistacia terebinthus, known commonly as terebinth and turpentine tree, is a small deciduous tree or large shrub native to the Western Mediterranean region. It grows up to 10 m tall and has a gray aromatic single or multiple trunks. The leaves are compound, 10-20 cm long, odd pinnate with five to eleven opposite glossy oval leaflets. The reddish-purple flowers appear with the new leaves in early spring. The fruit consists of small, globular drupes 5-7 mm long, red to black when ripe. All parts of the plant have a strong resinous smell. In the vegetative period they develop "galls" in their leaves and leaflets after the bite of insects. It prefers relatively moist areas, up to 600 m in height. It overcomes Mediterranean summer drought and frost better than the mastic tree. It requires a sunny exposure and average soils, tolerating lime and some salt. It often grows near the sea, rivers, streams and salt lakes.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

French Name:	Térébinthe
Pronunciation:	piss-TAY-shee-uh
Plant Type:	Shrub
Origin:	Mediterranean Basin
Heat Zones:	
Hardiness Zones:	7, 8
Uses:	Container, Edible, Medicinal, Wildlife
Size/Shape	
Growth Rate:	Slow
Tree Shape:	Round
Canopy Symmetry:	Symmetrical
Canopy Density:	Dense
Canopy Texture:	Medium
Height at Maturity:	5 to 8 m
Spread at Maturity:	5 to 8 meters

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Flower Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Alternate

Leaf Venation: Pinnate

Leaf Persistence: Deciduous

Leaf Type: Odd Pinnately compound

Leaf Blade: Less than 5

Leaf Margins: Entire

Leaf Textures: Rough

Leaf Scent: Pleasant

Color(growing season): Green

Color(changing season): Yellow, Orange, Red

Flower

Flower Showiness: True

Flower Scent: No Fragrance

Flower Color: Red

Seasons: Spring

Trunk

Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage: Generally resists breakage

Number of Trunks: Can be trained to one trunk

Fruit

Fruit Type: Drupe

Fruit Showiness: True

Fruit Size Range: 0 - 1.5

Fruit Colors: Red

Seasons: Spring

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Leaf Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: Yes

Drought Tolerant: Yes

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic, Neutral, Alkaline

Water Requirements: Moderate, Low

Light Requirements: Full

Management

Pruning Requirement: No pruning at all

Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter: No

Surface Rooting: No

Life Span: 25-50 years

Edible Parts: Fruit

Plant Propagations: Seed, Cutting

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Fruit Image



Other Image