

## Pistacia lentiscus

### (Mastic, Lentisk)

Pistacia lentiscus is a widespread shrub or small tree species in the Mediterranean scrubland associated with other elements of the scrub. It flourishes from sea level to a height up to 600-700 meters with myrtle and olives. The plant is low spreading with evergreen pinnately compound leaves. The shrub has a strong resin odor. The male and female flowers are separate but both can be found on the same plant and it blooms in April/May. The fruit is a red drupe.

Pistacia is a plant which is sun and heat tolerant and resists conditions of great aridity, making it most suitable for this type of terrain. It prefers, however, sandy soils, where it flourishes, reaching the dimensions of a small, twisted tree, or, more commonly, a bush. In landscaping it is often used as a hedge, or mass plantation.

Resin is extracted from the plant in autumn by cutting into the trees' s trunk and branches. When in contact with the air, the resin collects and forms small, dark masses that are then removed. This resin is used for preparing varnishes and in the Near East this mastic is used as chewing gum to whiten the teeth.



Plant Image

### Landscape Information

**French Name:** Lentisque, Pistachier lentisque

**Arabic Name:** البطم

**Pronunciation:** piss-TAY-shee-uh

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Origin:** Mediterranean Basin

**Heat Zones:**

**Hardiness Zones:** 9, 10, 11

**Uses:** Hedge, Wildlife

### Size/Shape

**Growth Rate:** Slow

**Tree Shape:** Round

**Canopy Symmetry:** Irregular

**Canopy Density:** Dense

**Canopy Texture:** Medium

**Height at Maturity:** 1.5 to 3 m

**Spread at Maturity:** 1.5 to 3 meters

**Companion Plants:** Myrtle, olives

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Flower Image

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## Botanical Description

### Foliage

**Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite

**Leaf Venation:** Pinnate

**Leaf Persistence:** Evergreen

**Leaf Type:** Even Pinnately compound

**Leaf Blade:** 5 - 10 cm

**Leaf Shape:** Lanceolate

**Leaf Margins:** Entire

**Leaf Textures:** Waxy

**Leaf Scent:** Pleasant

**Color(growing season):** Green

**Color(changing season):** Green

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### Flower

**Flower Showiness:** False

**Flower Color:** White

**Seasons:** Spring, Summer

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### Trunk

**Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage:** Generally resists breakage

**Number of Trunks:** Multi-Trunked

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### Fruit

**Fruit Type:** Drupe

**Fruit Showiness:** True

**Fruit Size Range:** 0 - 1.5

**Fruit Colors:** Red

**Seasons:** Spring, Summer

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Leaf Image

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### 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:** Needed, to develop a strong structure

**Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter:** No

**Surface Rooting:** No

**Life Span:** 25-50 years

**Edible Parts:**

**Plant Propagations:** Seed, Cutting

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## MORE IMAGES



Fruit Image



Other Image