

Pistachio, *Pistacia vera*
(Anacardiaceae)
CROP OF THE DAY

Pistachio Product Recalls: Salmonella

Updated: May 11, 2009
New! Open + information posted on this Web page in the past 24 hours.

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Update on Pistachio Product Recall

The FDA has completed its inspection of salmonella contamination in pistachios and pistachio products at Eastern Pistachios of Turkiye Inc., Yedigöller, Çamlı and presented a 482 Inspection Report to the firm.

Most of the products associated with this recall appear to have been identified. Although these products are being added to the FDA's searchable database, consumers should continue to check the FDA website (<http://www.fda.gov/oc/foodsafety>) for current information on recalled products. FDA's recall database contains pistachios and pistachio products that have been recalled because they contain pistachios recalled by Eastern Pistachios.

Consumers should not eat pistachios or food products containing them (such as pistachio bakery goods and pistachio ice cream) until they can determine that the products do not contain pistachios recalled by Eastern Pistachios. FDA's warning does not apply to pistachios and pistachio products not associated with recalled pistachios from Eastern Pistachios.

<http://www.fda.gov/pistachios/>

CALIFORNIA SUNGOLD
California pistachios grower direct, delicious gourmet treats and great gift ideas!

CALIFORNIA SUNGOLD: NO RECALL
None of California Sungold's products are involved in any part of the current recall.

Our products are purchased from A & P Growers in Tulare CA, a supplier located in a different city and facility than the current recall supplier. Our supplier unconditionally guarantees their products for being safe and free from any harmful bacteria.

Note: No one has ever become sick from eating any California pistachio product, including any product from the supplier of the current recall.

Rest assured that our products are safe, edible and delicious!

<http://www.californiasungold.com/>

Sources

- Text:
 - Zohary, D., and M. Hopf. 2000. The domestication of plants in the Old World. 3rd ed. Oxford University Press, Oxford.
 - Shrestha, A.B. 1995. Pistachio nut, *Pistacia vera* (Anacardiaceae), p. 14-16. In J. Smartt and N. W. Simmonds, eds. Evolution of Crop Plants. Longman, London.
 - Mark's Fruit Crops: <http://www.uga.edu/fruit/pistacio.htm>
 - <http://www.aacalipistachios.com/history.htm>
 - Pistachio - *Pistacia vera* L.: <http://www.uga.edu/fruit/pistacio.htm>
 - Pistachio nuts, production: http://www.fis.gov.de/fis_e/warenuesse/pistazie/pistazie.htm
 - Iran NAP Co.: <http://www.no-2.com/pistachio/>
- Photos:
 - <http://internetserver.com/isc/travel/asia/iran/kerman/photo/pistachio.html>
 - <http://www.mattbarrett.net/photos/pistachios.htm>
 - <http://waynesword.palomar.edu/ecoph8.htm>
 - <http://www.amargosavalley.com/AGRICULTURE/pistachi.html>

Pistachio crop

- Grown in:
 - Iran, Turkey, Syria, Afghanistan, Greece, Lebanon, Pakistan; USA
- Production:
- Composition:
 - Sugar: 19%
 - Protein: > 20%
 - Oil: 50%
 - Saturated 13%
 - Mono-unsaturated 68%
 - Poly-unsaturated 15%
 - Dietary fiber 10.8 gr/100 gr
 - Vitamin E 5.2 mgr/100 gr

Country	2003		Area Harv
	Production Mt	Yield Hg/Ha	
Iran, Islamic Rep of	310000	10877	285000
United States of America	81650	24593	33200
Syrian Arab Republic	50000	25000	20000
Turkey	50000	12500	40000
China	26000	17333	15000
Greece	8500	16634	5110
Italy	2500	6944	3600
Uzbekistan	1000	10000	1000
Tunisia	800	348	23000
Pakistan	200	14815	135
Madagascar	160	3137	510
Kyrgyzstan	100	10000	100
Cyprus	15	1250	120
Mexico	7	4375	16

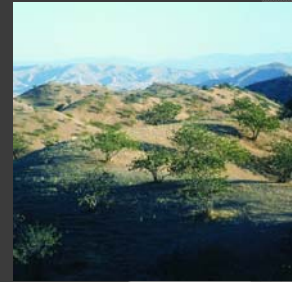
Wild *Pistachia vera*

- Northeast Iran, north Afghanistan, central Asian republics (Uzbekistan, Tadjikistan, Kirgizia, S. Turkmenistan, S. Kazakhstan)
- Smaller, edible fruit
- Used as rootstock



Pistachio (I)

- Among the most drought tolerant fruit trees
- Adaptation
 - Summer: high temp, no rainfall
 - Winter: 700-1000 h of < 7°C; break bud dormancy (= high chilling requirement)
 - Tolerates saline soils
- Reproduction:
 - Dioecious → need to mix ♂ and ♀ (1:8 ratio); 3 x 3 planting with ♂ in center
 - Wind-pollinated
 - Grafting on wild rootstock: *P. atlantica*, *P. terebinthus*, or *P. palaestina*
- $2n = 2x = 30$



Pistachio (II)

- Small tree, up to 20 ft
- Leaves: Composite, pinnate
- Inflorescence: panicle w/ 300 flowers; 10% fruit set, mostly terminal
- Fruit: drupe; 4-5 yrs; outer skin ("hull"), shell, nut (=cotyledons); "on" years: 50-100 lbs per tree; 1.5-2.5 tons/acre (in-shell but dehulled weight)
- At harvest: remove hulls, wash shells + nuts; dry; sort; roast and salt
- Consumption: fresh (75%); processed: ice cream, etc. (25%)



Pistachio (III)

- Pesteh (Persian), Pistachio (English), Pistache (French), Pistazie (Germany), Pistacchio (Italian), Pistacho (Spanish), Pista (Indian)
- Major production in Iran:
 - In Kerman province: 160,000 ha
 - Pistachios are in different shapes:
 - Round (Fandoghi)
 - Jumbo (Kalleqouchi)
 - Long (Akbari, Ahmadaighaei Badami)



Pistachio in CA (I)



- Cultivars:
 - Female:
 - 'Kerman' named after the major pistachio region of Iran, was introduced in the 1950's after testing for many years in California. Kerman comprises 99% of the California acreage.
 - It produces high yields of large nuts, but has heavy alternate bearing habit, produces many blanks and nuts with unsplit shells (undesirable from a market standpoint).
 - Male:
 - 'Peters', named after A.B. Peters, its discoverer, is the major pollinizing cultivar, and the closest to a universal pollinizer of all males.



Pistachio in CA (II)

- The pistachio industry:
 - began as a tax evasion mechanism. Many Californians were investing in almonds to avoid paying taxes, until legislation in the 1960's put an end to that. Some of those folks diversified into pistachios,
 - who got rich (quite by accident) when the Ayatollah Khomeini held Americans hostage in the US embassy in Iran in the late 1970's. Iran was the world's leading pistachio producer at that time, and the lack of exportation from this country following the revolution sent prices up for California nuts.
 - California production has increased so rapidly it has all but eliminated the need for pistachio import into the US.



Other uses for Pistacia



Pistacia chinensis: ornamental



P. terebinthus: resin as wine preservative



Pistacia lentiscus: Mastic resin: in perfumes, chewing gums, pharmaceuticals, high grade varnishes for protecting pictures, adhesives for dental caps.

Speaking of chewing gum...

- Recent merger proposal:
 - Mars would like to buy Wrigley:
 - Mars: Cacao
 - Wrigley: resins as base: Chicle, sorva, jelutong (now synthetic rubber)
- Chewing is an old custom



4000-3500 a.e. Birch gum