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## ‘Winecraft Gold’ Smoketree

*Cotinus coggygria* ‘Winecraft Gold’, USDA Hardiness Zones 5-8

The species is native to southern Europe and temperate parts of Asia. Although there are many cultivated varieties of smoketree, it is underutilized in the landscape. The ‘Winecraft Gold’ smoketree is a deciduous shrub that has much to offer throughout the growing season. This cultivar has a rounded, dwarf habit, making it a space-efficient and worthy fit for most gardens. *Cotinus coggygria* ‘Winecraft Gold’ typically matures to 6’ tall and wide. This compact variety is ablaze with bright colors from spring to fall. Each spring, emerging foliage is vibrant orange and the summer canopy ranges from green to gold. During summer bloom, pink hairs attached to elongated stalks on the spent flower clusters create the illusion of smoke plumes. The hazy effect is a unique and delightful texture in the garden.

In early summer, pink plumes rise from old wood, so refrain from pruning until after flowering. This plant does not require much pruning aside from structural defects like crossing branches. The shrub is tolerant to deer, drought, and poor soil conditions. When choosing a planting location, prioritize full sun for best flowering. Smoketree is most effective as a hedge, mass planting, or border plant, but this showy cultivar might deserve a more prominent location.

Seeds of *Cotinus coggygria* were received by the Arboretum throughout the twentieth century from the Berlin Botanical Garden, Italy, Germany, Hungary, and the 1980 USSR Expedition. Many cultivars of this smoldering plant species can be viewed throughout the Arboretum landscape, including Bussey Hill summit, along Meadow Road, and the Leventritt Shrub and Vine Garden.

### *Planting and Care Instructions*

Carefully unpack your plant and choose a location that is full-sun to part-shade and protected from foot traffic. Tease apart the roots to encourage them to spread away from the plant. Plant in well-drained soil at the correct depth. The top of the root system should be level with the soil surface. The depth of the hole should accommodate the height of the roots and the bottom should be left undisturbed to prevent settling. The width of the hole should be at least two times the width of the roots. This loosened soil will allow new roots to grow more quickly.

After planting, water your shrub well and apply a 1-inch layer of mulch over the area, but do not allow mulch to contact the stem to reduce the likelihood of decay or girdling roots. Water again after mulching and continue to monitor the soil within the root system, and prevent it from drying out until established.