



**Chandra X-ray  
Observatory Center**

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**IC 4593:** A planetary nebula located about 7,800 light years from Earth.  
(Credit: X-ray: NASA/CXC/UNAM/J. Toalá et al.; Optical: NASA/STScI)

**Caption:** This image of the planetary nebula IC 4593 contains X-rays from Chandra (purple) from gas that has been heated to over a million degrees. These high temperatures were likely generated by material that blew away from the shrunken core of the star and crashed into gas that had previously been ejected by the star. Visible light data from Hubble (pink and green) in this image show combinations of nitrogen, oxygen, and hydrogen. Planetary nebulas are a phase that stars like our Sun undergo once they run out of fuel, causing their outer layers to shed and the core of the star to shrink.

**Scale:** Image is about 25.5 arcsec (0.96 light years) across.

*Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS Image*

*CXC operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory*

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