Plum, Thundercloud

Prunus cerasifera 'Thundercloud'



Plum, Thundercloud in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 25 feet

Spread: 25 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 4b

Other Names: Myrobalan Plum, Pissard Plum

Description:

A stunning accent tree that resembles a cloud of fragrant pink flowers in spring, deep purple foliage all season long; makes a bold statement in the landscape, best used as a solitary feature tree or in street plantings

Ornamental Features

Plum, Thundercloud is bathed in stunning clusters of fragrant pink flowers along the branches in early spring before the leaves. It has attractive deep purple deciduous foliage. The pointy leaves are highly ornamental and turn an outstanding burgundy in the fall. The fruits are showy purple drupes displayed in mid summer.



Plum, Thundercloud flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Plum, Thundercloud is a deciduous tree with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This tree will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Plum, Thundercloud is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade

Planting & Growing

Plum, Thundercloud will grow to be about 25 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 25 feet. It has a high canopy of foliage that sits well above the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. As it matures, the lower branches of this tree can be strategically removed to create a high enough canopy to support unobstructed human traffic underneath. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years.

This tree should only be grown in full sunlight. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. This plant should be periodically fertilized throughout the active growing season with a specially-formulated acidic fertilizer. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Clean up Rating (1-5) 1=least effort 5=most effort

Clean Up Rating (4): The plums develop a few to some 2 to 3 inch plums dropping during the summer. Clean up is scoop or pick up plums and bag them. Leaves and blooms can be blown or raked onto the lawn and mow or bag.