Cherry, Flowering Mt. Fuji

Prunus serrulata 'Shirotae'



Cherry, Flowering Mt. Fuji flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 15 feet

Spread: 20 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5b

Other Names: Oriental Cherry, Japanese Cherry

Description:

A superb landscape ornamental smothered in semi-double white flowers in early spring before the leaves, stunning bronze bark, good fall color and spreading habit; one of the most renowned heritage varieties, needs full sun and well-drained soil

Ornamental Features

Cherry, Flowering Mt. Fuji is draped in stunning clusters of fragrant semi-double white flowers along the branches in early spring, which emerge from distinctive pink flower buds before the leaves. It has green deciduous foliage which emerges coppery-bronze in spring. The serrated pointy leaves turn coppery-bronze in fall. The smooth dark red bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape.



Cherry, Flowering Mt. Fuji in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Cherry, Flowering Mt. Fuji is a deciduous tree with a shapely oval form. 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. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Disease

Cherry, Flowering Mt. Fuji is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade



Cherry, Flowering Mt. Fuji flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Cherry, Flowering Mt. Fuji will grow to be about 15 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 20 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 3 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 50 years or more.

This tree does best in full sun to partial shade. 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 pH, but grows best in rich soils. 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 (2): Abundant flowers in early spring before the tree leaves out and if the tree develops fruit will be pea sized mostly pit turning from red to black in early summer. The fruit is unpalatable for humans but birds and wildlife like them. The leaves, flowers and fruit can be blown or raked onto the lawn and mowed or bagged.