Laurel, Compact Cherry

Prunus caroliniana 'Compacta'

Height: 10 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 6b

Description:

A compact form of cherry laurel, that produces showy, fragrant, erect white spike flowers, black fruit and glossy dark-green leaves; makes a stunning hedge or accent plant, and takes pruning very well

Ornamental Features

Laurel, Compact Cherry features showy racemes of fragrant white flowers rising above the foliage in mid spring. It has attractive dark green evergreen foliage. The glossy pointy leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter. The fruits are showy black drupes displayed in mid summer.

Landscape Attributes

Laurel, Compact Cherry is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub 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 is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Laurel, Compact Cherry is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use



Laurel, Compact Cherry
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Laurel, Compact Cherry foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Laurel, Compact Cherry will grow to be about 10 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front, 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 shrub 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, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selection of a native North American species.