Chokecherry, Sucker Punch

Prunus virginiana 'P002S'

Height: 25 feet

Spread: 20 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Other Names: Schubert Chokecherry, Purpleleaf Chokecherry

Description:

An exciting accent tree featuring rich foliage that turns deep purple as the season progresses; very attractive racemes of white flowers in spring are followed by dark purple cherries that are good for preserves; variety does not produce suckers

Ornamental Features

Chokecherry, Sucker Punch features showy chains of white flowers hanging below the branches in mid spring. It has attractive deep purple foliage with hints of burgundy which emerges light green in spring. The oval leaves are highly ornamental and turn an outstanding dark red in the fall. The fruits are showy deep purple drupes which fade to black over time, which are carried in abundance in mid summer.

This plant is primarily grown as an ornamental, but it's also valued for its edible qualities. The small round tart fruit is most often used in the following ways:

- Baking
- Preserves
- Sauces

Landscape Attributes

Chokecherry, Sucker Punch is a deciduous tree with a more or less rounded 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.



Chokecherry, Sucker Punch
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Chokecherry, Sucker Punch foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This is a high maintenance tree that will require regular care 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 and bees to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Chokecherry, Sucker Punch is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade
- Orchard/Edible Landscaping

Planting & Growing

Chokecherry, Sucker Punch will grow to be about 25 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 20 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 40 years or more. This is a self-pollinating variety, so it doesn't require a second plant nearby to set fruit.

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 selection of a native North American species.

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

Clean Up Rating (4): Blooms are long clusters growing on the last year's twig growth and appear before the leaves are fully developed. Chokecherries are clusters of pea sized fruit and have a fleshy outside with a stone center that contains the seed. The color goes from red to dark purple by late summer. The fruit can be scooped up and bagged, the leaves can be blown or raked onto the lawn and mowed or bagged.