

Flowering Cherries & Plums

Flowering cherries are among the most-loved beacons of spring in Seattle. They normally start blooming in April. Flowering plums typically begin their bloom in March. A sheltered location or a warm spring can promote flowering up to a month early; conversely, a cold location or bad weather may delay flowering.

Flowering cherries and their relatives like full sun and well-drained soil. They are drought-tolerant once established, but perform best with occasional water during our summer dry season. They normally need no pruning except to remove dead or crossing branches.

FLOWERING CHERRIES (Prunus serrula and assorted Prunus hybrids)

Akebono Height and width 25 feet. Upright spreading form. Delicate pink flowers. Yellow fall color. Usually one of the earliest cherries to flower. Most disease-resistant flowering cherry for the Northwest. Fall foliage is golden yellow with orange highlights. A Great Plant Pick.

Akebono Dwarf Height and width 12-14 feet. Dwarf form of Akebono.

Amanogawa Height 20 feet—width 6 feet. Columnar form in youth—vaselike but still narrow as older tree. Pale pink, semi-double flowers. Bronze fall color.

Autumnalis Height 20-25 feet—spread 15-20 feet. Rounded form. Semi-double flowers, deep pink buds opening to light pink, fading to almost white. Bronzy foliage. **Usually blooms again in the fall.**

Columnar Sargent Height 35 feet—width 15 feet. **Upright columnar,** slightly vase-like form. Single pink flowers in clusters. Orange fall color.

First Blush Height 25 feet, spread 12. Upright narrow oval form. Profuse ruffled double pink flowers. Clean dark green foliage in summer. Red-orange fall color.

Kwanzan Height and width 15-20 feet. Upright vase like form. Double, 1½", deep rose-pink flowers. Mid season bloomer. Showiest of all flowering cherries with bundles of huge double pink flowers. Bronze-red new foliage; bronzy orange fall color.

Kwanzan Dwarf Height 12-14 feet—spread 8-12 feet. Dwarf form of Kwanzan.

Little Twist Height 5-6 feet—spread 5-6 feet. Very unique form—stems and shoots zig-zag, creating a remarkable silhouette winter and summer. Stems are covered with single flowers, white with pink centers. Excellent maroon fall color.

Mount Fuji Height 15-20 feet—spread 20-25 feet. Horizontal spreading form. Abundant pink buds open to 2", semi-double white flowers. Excellent fragrance. Small vigorous tree.

Mount Fuji Dwarf Height 8-10—spread 10-15 feet. Dwarf version of Mount Fuji.

Okame Height and spread 20 feet. Graceful oval form. Profuse pink single blooms, early. Good yellow-orange to orange-red fall color.

Pink Cascade Height and spread 10-12 feet. Graceful cascading branches. Prolific single flowers are bright pink. Like a pink 'Snow Fountains'! Orange fall color.

Royal Burgundy Height 20 feet—width 15 feet. Broad vase-like form. Double shell pink flowers on red stems with deep wine-red foliage. Reddish orange fall color.

Shirofugen Height and spread 20-25 feet. Wide, open form. Purplish-pink buds open to spectacular double white, 2" flowers in large clusters. Flowers fade to pink as they age. One of the latest cherries to bloom. Copper colored new foliage.

Shogetsu Height 15-20 feet, spread 25 feet. Spreading graceful form. Longer blooming than most, with pink buds opening to large, double pale pink to white flowers.

Snow Fountains Height and spread 10-12 feet. Graceful cascading form. Early, semi-double snow white blossoms. Golden to orange fall color. The favorite white cherry.

Snow Goose Height and spread 18-20 feet. Broad, rounded form. Showy display of snow-white single flowers. Good fall color.

Weeping Double Pink (Subhirtella) Height and spread 12-15 feet. Profuse ³/₄ - 1" double pink flowers appear before the leaves for a spectacular show. Most popular of the weeping cherries. Yellow to bronze fall color.

Yoshino Height 35-45 feet—spread 30-40 feet. Rounded, graceful form with pendulous branches. Single, light pink to white blooms with almond scent. Showy, early bloomer. Very disease-resistant. Fall foliage is golden yellow with orange highlights. A Great Plant Pick.

Yoshino Dwarf Height and spread 8-10 feet. Dwarf form of Yoshino

FLOWERING PLUMS (Prunus cerasifera & Prunus x cistena hybrids)

Krauter Vesuvius Height and width 15-20 feet. Upright rounded shape. Light pink flowers, very dark purple foliage. Best in full sun.

Thundercloud Height 20 feet, width 15 feet. Upright rounded form. Fragrant, single, soft pink flowers. Foliage stays deep purple through the summer.