Flowering cherries are among the most-loved beacons of spring in Seattle. They normally start blooming in April. Their relatives, flowering apricots, can start blooming in February—as early as January in mild winters. 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 will 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 DWARF. Height and width 12-14 feet. Upright spreading form. Delicate pink flowers. 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.

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.


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.


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.

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.

SNOW FOUNTAINS. Height and spread 10-12 feet. Graceful cascading branches. Early, semi-double snow white blossoms. Golden to orange fall color. Ideal for Japanese gardens and small spaces—one of the most stunning examples of spring splendor.
**WEEEPING DOUBLE PINK (S U B H I R T E L L A).** Height and spread 12-15 feet. Profuse ¾ - 1” double pink flowers appear before the leaves for a spectacular show. Most popular of the weeping cherries. Yellow to bronze fall color.


**FLOWERING PLUMS (P r u n u s c e r a s i f e r a & P r u n u s x c i s t e n a hybrids)**

**BIG CIS.** Height 12-14 feet, width 10-12 feet. Upright rounded form; dense crown, sturdy trunk. Very fragrant, single, soft pink flowers. Deep reddish-purple foliage. May produce a scant crop of small purple-black plums that birds will love.