

Ornamental Cherry Trees

Ornamental (Flowering) Cherry Trees

Because of their showy blossoms, ornamental cherry trees are typically grown as specimen plants, often in parks, on front lawns and along sidewalks. Although ornamental cherry trees are typically planted for their profusion of showy flowers in the spring, some species also produce small cherries in the summer. The fruit is too tart for our palettes, but appeals to a wide variety of birds including robins, cardinals, and waxwings. Often the blossoms change colors, starting out dark pink when in bud, turning lighter pink when they first blossom, and then eventually turning pale pink or white. Some varieties also display wonderful fall color, with foliage that turns purple, red, or orange. They also make effective screen trees. Some common varieties and their bloom times:

- **Snow Fountain** (Early)
- **Yoshino** (Early) - The Japanese flowering cherry (also known as the Yoshino cherry) is the darling of the flowering tree world and the star of such renowned events as the National and International Cherry Blossom Festivals. This stand-out tree is, of course, known for its vibrant display of white-pink blossoms and faint almond fragrance in the springtime. In the summer, this tree will be a highlight in the yard with its oriental branching pattern, glossy bark and dark green leaves.

The Japanese flowering cherry grows to a height of 40–50' and a spread of 25–40' at maturity. This tree grows at a medium rate, with height increases of 13–24" per year. Full sun and partial shade are best for this tree, meaning it prefers a minimum of four hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight each day.

- **Akebono** (Early)
- **Snow Goose** (Early)
- **Shirotae** (Early)
- **Amanogawa** (Mid)
- **Kanzan/Kwanzan** (Mid) - The Kanzan cherry is the most popular cultivar of all the double flowering cherries, thanks to its stunning pink blossoms, good fall color, lack of fruit and upright, vase-shaped form. It is a splendid specimen that can be planted in containers, along walks and streets and in buffer strips. The Kanzan cherry can even be used as a bonsai tree.

The Kanzan cherry grows to a height of 30–40' and a spread of 30–40' at maturity. This tree grows at a medium rate, with height increases of 13–24" per year. Full sun is the ideal condition for this tree, meaning it should get at least six hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight each day.

- **Royal Burgundy** (Mid) - Royal Burgundy' is in many ways similar to the ever popular Kanzan, which is not surprising as it is a cultivar. It has the same large, dark pink flowers. But with the added attraction of dark purple- red leaves. This tree will grow in an open vase shape to a height of about 6 metres (20ft), has wonderful wine dark autumn colour.

- **Shirofugen** (Mid-Late)
- **Shogetsu** (Late)

- **Sargent** - Called the “crème de la crème” of flowering cherries, the Sargent cherry offers year-round beauty. Pink blooms adorn the tree in late spring, the leaves unfurl with a purplish or bronze hue that transitions to a shiny dark green into summer and then red, orange and bronze in the fall; and the winter landscape benefits from its attractive bark. The Sargent cherry grows to a height of 40–50' and a spread of 40–50' at maturity. This tree grows at a medium rate, with height increases of 13–24" per year. Full sun is the ideal condition for this tree, meaning it should get at least six hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight each day.