PLANT FACT SHEET

Prunus padus L.

GENUS *Prunus* **FAMILY** Rosaceae

COMMON NAMES Bird Cherry, European Bird Cherry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds, Leaves, Flowers, Bark - tea

The fruit are bitter. They contain tannin. They are used for jams. They are dried and added to porridge and pies.
The fruit are used to flavour brandies and wines.
The young leaves are used as a boiled vegetable.
The flowers are chewed.
The bark is used for tea.

DESCRIPTION

A deciduous tree. It grows 6-15 m high. It is a broad spreading shape. The bark is dark grey and smooth. The bark has scattered pores and peels off. The leaves are oval and 10 cm long by 6 cm across. They taper to a point. The leaves are leathery with fine, regular teeth around the edge. The leaves are dark matt green and usually turn red or yellow in autumn. The flowers are white and almond scented. They hang in long spikes. The flowers are 1 cm across and the spikes 15 cm long. The fruit are black cherries. They are 8 mm long. The fruit contains a hard oval stone.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is native to N. Asia and Europe. It grows in open places by streams and woods. It grows easily in limestone areas. It suits hardiness zones 3-9. Arboretum Tasmania. In Inner Mongolia.

NOTES

There are about 200 Prunus species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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