PLANT FACT SHEET

Prunus cerasifera Ehrh.

GENUS *Prunus* **FAMILY** Rosaceae

COMMON NAMES Myrobalan plum, Cherry plum, Flowering plum

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds, Flowers

The ripe fruit are eaten raw. They are also used for pies, tarts and jam. They are used for syrup.

DESCRIPTION

A deciduous tree. It grows to 7.5 m high. The crown is spreading and open. The twigs are thorny. The bark is purple-brown and thinly scaly. It has orange lenticels across it. The leaves are alternate and glossy green. They are oval and 6 cm long by 3 cm wide. There are small regular rounded teeth on the edge of the leaf. The flowers are small and white. They appear before the leaves. They are 2.5 cm across. There are 5 petals and sepals which curve back. The flowers occur singly or in small clusters. The fruit are green but turn red. They are 3 cm across. They are edible. There are several named cultivated varieties.

HABITAT

Temperate. The cv. called Sogdijskaya grows in Kazakhstan it grows in gorges and mountain slopes between 800-2,200 m altitude. It suits hardiness zones 4-10.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

The tree can spread by suckering.

NOTES

There are about 200 Prunus species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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