

Botanical Name: Prunus cerasifera v. 'Atropurpurea'

Common Name: Purple leaf plum

Type of Plant: dicot: tree Character deciduous

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape a rather small tree, mostly single-trunked, with slender
ascending and spreading branches forming a rounded canopy; the new branches are
maroon-brown, turning gray-brown with age

Height 15-20' (30') Spread equal Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure tolerates both full or partial sun (poor flower production in shade)

Soil prefers a rich loam - tolerates most except soils with high pH

Hardiness hardy (all zones); thrives in areas having definite season changes

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, alternate, ovate-obovate; 1-1/2-2" long with finely serrate
margins; purplish-green or purplish bronze (new leaves are copper red)

Flowers pinkish-white, showy, solitary or in small clusters; on second-year or
older wood; mostly 5-petaled, 1/2"-1" diameter; Feb.-March

Fruit an edible fleshy drupe: 1/2-1" long, oval, deep red or maroon

Propagation: by seed; seedlings are later grafted

Usage: a dramatic small accent tree, valued for its attractive overall form, its
form, dark foliage, and early spring bloom; used as a patio, street or lawn
tree; best for temperate-climate theme gardens - good with conifers

Landscape Care:

Watering regular preferred: lawn watering is tolerated if drainage is good

Fertilizing balanced (in spring) after blooming is finished

Pruning thin out the whippy cane-like branches in center to develop framework

Pests/Diseases aphids, scale, peach tree borers, spider mite, oak root fungus

Special Conditions somewhat short-lived where oak root fungus is present

Origin: temperate forests of Japan Family: Rosaceae