

Botanical Name: Prunus caroliniana

Common Name: Carolina laurelcherry

Type of Plant: dicot: tree/shrub Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape an upright, single or multi-trunked plant, with spreading branches forming a full rounded-oval canopy; the smaller branches are dark maroon color

Height 10-25'(30') Spread 2/3-equal Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full or partial sun

Soil prefers well-drained loam but tolerates poorer

Hardiness hardy (zones 7-24); thrives in warm humid locations

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, alternate, elliptic-oval; 2-4" long, dark glossy green above, pale green beneath

Flowers creamy white, small (1/4-1/3"), in terminal 1-2" spikes; fragrant; March-April

Fruit drupe: 1/4-1/2" diameter, fleshy, black-purple seed

Propagation: seed, semi-hardwood cuttings

Usage: a small accent or patio tree (for its form, flower display and glossy foliage); can be shaped into hedges, screen or topiary

Landscape Care:

Watering regular is preferred; avoid excess water in wet heavy soils

Fertilizing balanced, in spring; check for chlorosis

Pruning to shape desired; if flowers are wanted, head back

Pests/Diseases bacterial fireblight, scale

Special Conditions leaves, stems and seeds are poisonous

Origin: Eastern U.S. Family: Rosaceae