

Prunus cerasifera

COMMON NAMES

cherry plum

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS

White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Deciduous shrub or small tree to about 8 m high with short trunk and numerous spiny branches. Leaves are up to 80 x 45 mm, usually green but sometimes purple. Leaves are thin, on short petiole and have serrulate margins. The white flowers are usually in small clusters. The globose fruit are up to 30 mm long, yellow to orange-red or scarlet, sometimes dark crimson. The flesh is sweet and contains a smooth stone.

SIMILAR TAXA

Can be separated from other *Prunus* species by the glabrous fruit, young stems and mature leaves. A purple-leaved variety with dark crimson fruits, is widely cultivated; wild progeny retain the purple coloration.

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Forest margins, sand dunes, stream margins.

GENUS

Prunus

FAMILY

Rosaceae

AUTHORITY

Prunus cerasifera Ehrh.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

August, September

FRUITING

November, January

YEAR NATURALISED

1958

ORIGIN

Asia Minor, Caucasus

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental



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TOLERANCES

Thrives in cold, upland localities as well as coastal places.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Spreads by seed (very freely produced). Seeds very freely. Dispersed by humans and birds.

NVS CODE

PRUCER

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/prunus-cerasifera/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026