

Prunus cerasifera

COMMON NAME

cherry plum

FAMILY

Rosaceae

AUTHORITY

Prunus cerasifera Ehrh.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

PRUCER

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Forest margins, sand dunes, stream margins.

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.

FLOWERING

August, September

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

November, January

YEAR NATURALISED

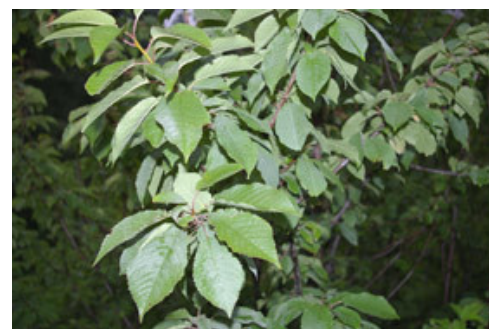
1958

ORIGIN

Asia Minor, Caucasus



Prunus cerasifera. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Prunus cerasifera. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

Reason For Introduction

Ornamental

Reproduction

Spreads by seed.

Seed

seeds very freely.

Dispersal

People, birds.

Tolerances

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

MORE INFORMATION

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