

Prunus avium Wild Cherry

Prunus avium, commonly known as the sweet cherry tree, is a species of deciduous tree that is native to Europe, western Asia, and parts of North Africa. It is widely cultivated for its fruit, which is commonly used in desserts, jams, and other culinary applications.

The sweet cherry tree can grow up to 82 feet (25 meters) tall, although it is typically much smaller when cultivated for fruit production. The tree has a rounded crown, with smooth, gray-brown bark. The leaves are ovate, measuring 2-5 inches (5-13 cm) in length, and have serrated edges. The tree produces small, white or pink flowers in the spring, which are followed by clusters of red or dark purple cherries in the summer.

It is a valuable habitat tree for many, insects and birds alike, and if that is not enough it produces small, edible but tart cherries and offers excellent Autumn colour.

Sweet cherry trees require full sun and well-drained soil, and are often planted in orchards for commercial fruit production. They are also commonly grown in home gardens and backyard orchards for their sweet, flavourful fruit. The fruit of sweet cherry trees is high in vitamin C and other nutrients, and is a good source of antioxidants.

In addition to its culinary uses, the sweet cherry tree is also valued for its wood, which is hard and durable, and is used for furniture, flooring, and other woodworking purposes. The tree is also an important source of nectar and pollen for bees and other pollinators.