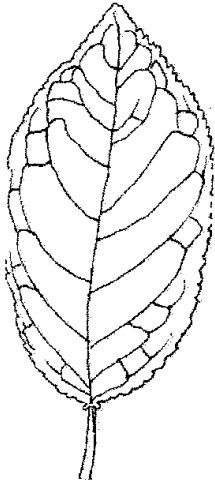


Cherry Plum

Prunus cerasifera



GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The actual species is not used in horticulture but the many cultivars and hybrids are popular for their white to pink flowers and purple foliage. This is a pleasant tree to look at with its colored foliage but it also can dominate the small landscape because of the density of its foliage. It blooms in April before the leaves with a plethora of white to pinks flowers. This is a small tree with a rounded form and ascending branches.

HABIT AND SIZE: 15-30' high and 15-25' wide with an upright branching rounded habit to shrub like habit.

LANDSCAPE VALUE: The species is not used but the cultivars and hybrids are extensively used for their purple foliage. They are often used in small landscapes as focal points or foundation plantings and in larger landscapes in groupings. Dense look in the landscape.

LEAVES: Alternately arranged, simple, ovate to elliptic or obovate 1.5-2.5" long and 1-1.25" wide. The tip is pointed to broadly wedged-shaped or rounded. The margins have finely obtuse serrations. They are smooth and green purple on top and lighter underneath with hairs on the midrib and major veins. The petiole is 0.5" long and is glandular at blade base.

FLOWERS: Rose type 5 parted, perfect, 0.75-1" in diameter, fragrant, white to purple-pink, opening in April before the leaves.

FRUIT: 1" diameter edible drupe, reddish in color with a waxy bloom. June-August.

BUD: Small, linear pointed with overlapping scales.

DISEASES AND INSECTS: Numerous, aphids, borers, scale, tent caterpillars, canker, leaf spots.

HARDINESS AND RANGE: Zones 4(5)-8. Western Asia, Caucasus.

CULTIVARS: 'Atropurpurea'- upright, dense, purple leaves, from before 1880; *P. xblireiana* hybrid between *P. cerasifera* 'Atropurpurea' and *P. mume*- many petaled flowers, small tree, leaves turn to green; *P. xcostena*- a cross between *P. cerasifera* 'Atropurpurea' and *P. pumila* small tree or shrub, ruby purple to reddish purple foliage, fragrant pinkish flowers. Many other cultivars and hybrids.