

PRUNUS DOMESTICA L.

SUBSP. INSITTIA “RAMASIN DI PAGNO”



Fam. Rosaceae

DESCRIPTION

It is a coarse fruit tree that requires little culture care and few phytosanitary treatments, therefore, it is very suitable for organic cultivation.

LEAVES

They are oval and lanceolate, 5-9 cm long, with jagged margins and a vivid green colour.

FRUITS

The fruit is a drupe with a soft, sweet and aromatic pulp. They are generally dark purple and one of their peculiarities is that the stone can easily be separated from the pulp. The fruits normally ripen between the 10th of July and the end of the month.

HABITAT

This species is native to Syria; it was imported to Europe by the Saracens during their invasions in the 9th and 10th centuries.

DISTRIBUTION

Mainly grown in the hilly areas of southern Piedmont and in some areas of Liguria, it is commonly found in orchards, vegetable gardens and common gardens.

FLOWERS

With five rounded white petals bundled in corymbs, the flowers have the singular characteristic of blooming before the leaves. Flowering generally occurs between the end of March and the first ten days of April.

ROOTS

The roots are shallow and are split into numerous basal shoots that must be eradicated annually to prevent the plant from becoming bushy.

BARK

In fully-grown specimens, the bark is furrowed and has a dark colour.

INTERESTING FACTS

One of the peculiarities of the Damson is its pruinescence that enhances its appearance: the skin is enwrapped by a thin film of white wax (bloom), naturally produced by the superficial cells of the epidermis. When ripe, the Damson plums fall from the branch and are traditionally collected on the ground, every morning.

