



PRUNUS SERRULATA

Fam. Rosaceae

DESCRIPTION

Medium-sized deciduous tree (8–12 m high). It is an ornamental cherry, renowned for its spring flowers.

LEAVES

They are simple, petiolate with a lanceolate lamina, a sharp apex and a jagged margin. Initially, the leaves are bronze, then they turn bright green and, during the summer, they become dull dark green.

FRUITS

The fruit is a dark drupe.

HABITAT

Originally from China, this tree is also widespread in Korea and Japan, where it is widely cultivated in countless varieties.

DISTRIBUTION

This species was brought to Europe in the early 18th century and is commonly known as Japanese Cherry. In Italy, it is commonly found in many public and private gardens and parks as well as in city avenues.

FLOWERS

They are bundled in numerous thick raceme-like inflorescences. The vivid pink flowers are double and can hold up to 30 petals each. They bloom in April before foliage.



BARK

The bark is similar to that of other cherry trees, peeling off with age in horizontal stripes, with showy transverse lenticels.

INTERESTING FACTS

In Japan, the cherry tree is known as *sakura* and is the national emblem. Hanami, (flower viewing) is the Japanese traditional custom of enjoying the transient beauty of flowers (from early April to mid-May), especially that of Japanese blooming cherry trees.

ROOTS

Generally, they are shallow.