



PRUNUS SUBHIRTELLA MIQUEL

Fam. Rosaceae

DESCRIPTION

It develops into a small tree or bush, that is erect, rounded and occasionally expanded; it can exceed 6 metres in height.

LEAVES

Oval, dark-green leaves that grow up to 8 cm long. Before the beginning of flowering, the leaves turn bronze before they fall off.

FRUITS

Ovoid, 8-mm long fruits, similar to cherries; initially red, they later turn almost black.

HABITAT

Native to Japan, the main highlight of this plant is its splendid unscented flowering.

BARK

It sports the typical glossy and decorative bark of cherry trees.

DISTRIBUTION

Commonly found in the temperate regions of the northern hemisphere, it grows mostly at the verge of woods and in thickets but it can adapt to a variety of different habitats, including sandy shores, rocky areas and cliffs.

INTERESTING FACTS

Prunus Subhirtella is a natural hybrid, referred to by the Royal Horticultural Society as *Prunus x Subhirtella*. In Japan, spring coincides with *Hanami*, the world-famous cherry blossom festival. The *sakuras* are the wonderful cherry blossoms that paint the entire Japanese landscape pink.

Hanami is a thousand-year-old world-renowned festival during which people spend days immersed in nature to witness the blossoming of cherry trees. In Japanese, "*hana*" means flowers and "*me*" means to look, to observe.

FLOWERS

Small semi-double flowers of a white colour, tinged with light-pink, 2 cm wide; they bloom in clusters of 2-5 cupped specimens. They appear in November-December and bloom again in March and on mild winter days. Its flowering is different from other flowering cherry trees in that it slowly begins, if the winter is not too harsh, already in November and December and then fully blooms in March.

ROOTS

Fairly shallow.

