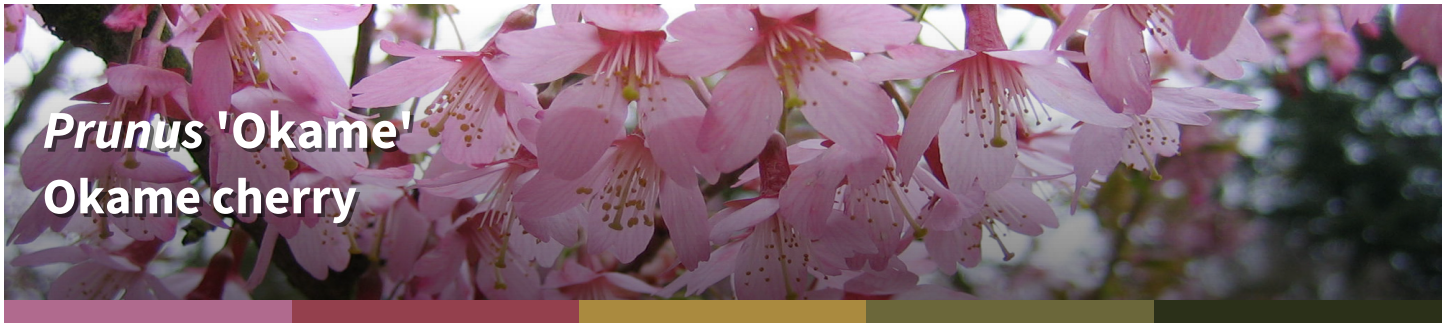


Prunus 'Okame'
Okame cherry



Prunus ‘Okame’ (Okame cherry) was cross-bred by captain and botanist Collingwood ‘Cherry’ Ingram in Benenden, England in 1947. *Okame* means turtle in Japanese and is the lucky symbol for a long life. The tree is a hybrid between the very winterhardy Fuji cherry (*Prunus incisa*) and very richly flowering Taiwanese cherry (*Prunus campanulata*): that created a *Prunus incisa* with the dark flowers of the non-winterhardy *Prunus campanulata*. The Okame cherry is more of a large multi-stem shrub than a small tree with a mature height of 3 - 5 metres and a flattened round, semi-open crown. Sometimes, the tree is grafted on a stem, creating a more oval crown.

In late March, early April, *Prunus* ‘Okame’ is one of the earliest Japanese cherry trees to bloom very lush with deep pink, cup-shaped flowers. Bees love to land on them, and *Prunus* ‘Okame’ has very valuable pollen production. Its oval leaves with a hairy underside bud somewhat bronze after blooming, then green and in autumn, the tree has a spectacular orange to red leaf colouration. The cultivar has smooth, dark brown bark. *Prunus* ‘Okame’ bears no fruit.

Like both of its parents, *Prunus* ‘Okame’ likes to grow in nutrient-rich, moist loam, loess, sabulous clay, richer sand and lighter clay soil. This Japanese cherry tree hates wet feet and cannot handle compact soil. The cultivar is perfect for sheltered gardens, but also thrives in parks, especially when planted in larger groups in sunny areas.

TYPES OF PLANTING
Tree types: solitary shrubs

USE
Location: park, in containers, large garden, small garden, patio, cemetery | **Pavement**: none

CHARACTERISTICS
Crown shape: narrow oval | **Crown structure**: dense | **Height**: 3 - 5 m | **Width**: 3 - 5 m | **Winter hardiness zone**: 6A - 9B

ASPECTS
Wind: intolerant to wind | **Soil**: loess, sabulous clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level**: moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level**: dry, moist | **Light requirements**: sun | **pH range**: neutral, alkaline (7.8 - 8.2) | **Host plant/forage plant**: bees

PLANTKENMERKEN
Flowers: cup-shaped, striking, pendulous, singular, small | **Flower colour**: dark pink | **Flowering period**: March - April | **Leaf colour**: buds bronze, green | **Leaves**: deciduous, ovoid, small, narrow, underside hairy, dentate | **Autumn colour**: orange, red | **Fruits**: no fruit | **Bark colour**: dark brown | **Bark**: smooth | **Twig colour**: brown | **Twigs**: bare, with lenticels | **Root system**: shallow

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