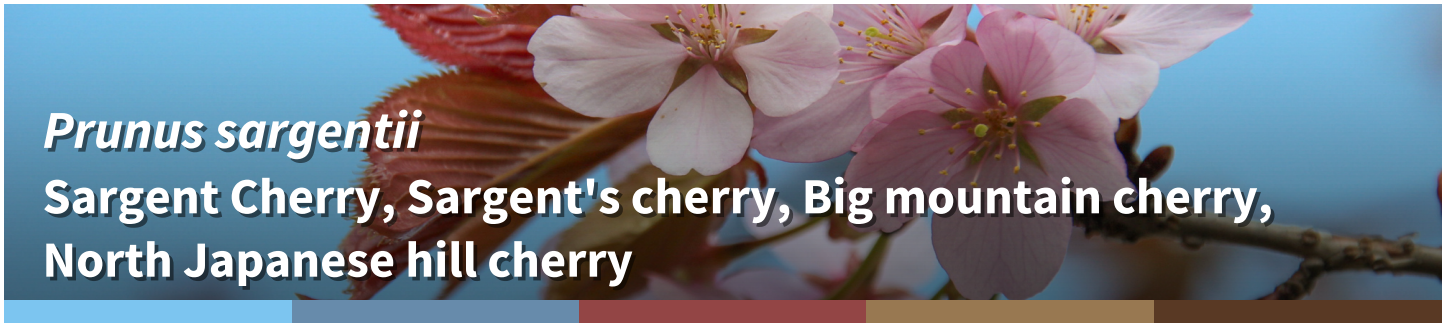


Prunus sargentii
Sargent Cherry, Sargent's cherry, Big mountain cherry, North Japanese hill cherry



Prunus sargentii (North Japanese hill cherry, Sargent's cherry, Big mountain cherry) is known in Japan as õ-yama-zakura, or large mountain cherry. Not to be confused with *Prunus serrulata* var. *spontanea*, also known as the Japanese cherry or hill cherry, although they are related. This ornamental cherry is found naturally up to high elevations in the forested mountain slopes of North Japan, along with *Quercus mongolica, Magnolia kobus, Euonymus alatus, Acer palmatum* and *Maackia amurensis*, among others. After Charles Sprague Sargent from America first came across this tree in 1892, he wrote about it in his book 'Forest Flora of Japan'. This is why the tree is known as the Sargent's cherry. In its natural habitat, *Prunus sargentii* grows to be up to 18 metres tall, but in culture the height remains limited to between 8 and 12 metres. The tree's crown shape is a wide oval.

In April, *Prunus sargentii* catches the eye immediately thanks to the intense light-pink colour of the blossom. The tree can be easily distinguished from its family member *Prunus serrulata* var. *spontanea*, as the flowers of the latter appear on a stem. The buds and young twigs are also sticky and the leaves feel rougher. The leaf unfurls with a bronze colour, after which it turns green in the summer, followed by a flaming orange-red shade in autumn. The bark is chestnut brown.

This ornamental cherry is very beautiful as a high-stem or multi-stem tree in gardens, estates and parks. The tree comes into its own best in nutrient-rich and damp soils. *Prunus sargentii* should be planted in a light position, sheltered from wind and sea winds. Excessive water levels, stagnant water and soil compaction must be avoided. Although *Prunus sargentii* is one of the strongest ornamental cherries, there are only a few cultivars on the market. This is because the tree originates from an uninhabited region and has not been crossbred very much, in contrast to the other Prunus species, which have been in culture for centuries now.

TYPES OF PLANTING
Tree types: standard trees, shade trees, solitary shrubs | **Topiary on stem**: multi-stem umbrella

USE
Location: avenue, square, park, central reservation, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones | **Pavement**: none, open, sealed

CHARACTERISTICS
Crown shape: wide egg-shaped, wide vase-shaped | **Crown structure**: semi-open | **Height**: 8 - 12 m | **Width**: 6 - 12 m | **Winter hardiness zone**: 5B - 8B

ASPECTS
Wind: intolerant to wind | **Soil**: loess, sabulous clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level**: rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level**: dry, moist | **Light requirements**: sun | **pH range**: acidic, neutral, alkaline | **Host plant/forage plant**: bees, birds | **Extreme environments**: tolerates air pollution

PLANTKENMERKEN
Flowers: striking, singular, big | **Flower colour**: pale pink | **Flowering period**: April - April | **Leaf colour**: buds bronze, green, underside white | **Leaves**: deciduous, ovate, big, doubly serrate, dentate | **Autumn colour**: yellow-orange, red | **Fruits**: discrete, small, cherry, drupe | **Fruit colour**: black-violet | **Bark colour**: red-brown | **Bark**: slightly furrowed | **Twig colour**: dark brown | **Twigs**: bare, with lenticels, polished | **Root system**: shallow, highly branched, clinging aerial roots

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