

# *Prunus sargentii* 'Charles Sargent'

## Sargent's cherry, North Japanese hill cherry



*Prunus sargentii* 'Charles Sargent' (Sargent's cherry, North Japanese hill cherry) was selected by Charles Sargent, the director of the Arnold Arboretum in Boston, USA. He collected the seeds of the *Prunus sargentii* in Japan and brought them to the Arboretum. From the many seedling varieties, he selected the specimen that embodied his perfect image of the Sargent cherry tree: a tree with almost horizontal bottom branches, which creates a round crown when the tree is older. *Prunus sargentii* 'Charles Sargent' reaches a height of about 8 - 10 metres and has a wide, vase-shaped crown when it is young. The image of the selection is maintained through vegetative propagation.

In April, *Prunus sargentii* 'Charles Sargent' stands out right away with its exquisite blossoms on bare wood. The countless single, hard pink flowers hang in groups of two to four and stay on the tree for about three weeks. Bees love them! After blooming, the large, oval leaves bud bronze, then turn green in summer and then in autumn, they turn a striking orange-red to fire red. The tree rarely bears fruit. The 'Charles Sargent' cultivar has appealing, slightly furrowed, chestnut brown bark.

The Sargent's cherry is one of the few Japanese cherry trees that can tolerate pavement, some salt spray and quite some draught and can thus be used as a uniquely beautiful standard tree in avenues, wide streets and in squares and car parks. But the species is also a real eye-catcher as a multi-stem tree in parks and gardens. *Prunus sargentii* 'Charles Sargent' thrives in a sheltered, sunny environment in nutrient-rich, moist and somewhat acidic, permeable soil. Though very healthy, the Sargent's cherry is sensitive to soil compaction and a good underground growth habitat is thus very important, particularly in pavement.

### SEASONAL COLOURS



### TYPES OF PLANTING

**Tree types:** standard trees, multi-stemmed trees, shade trees, characteristic trees, solitary shrubs | **Topiary on stem:** roof-trained, vase, multi-stem umbrella

### USE

**Location:** street, avenue, square, car park / parking lot, park, central reservation, large garden, cemetery | **Pavement:** none, open, sealed

### CHARACTERISTICS

**Crown shape:** rounded | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 8 - 10 m | **Width:** 6 - 10 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 5B - 8B

### 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:** acidic, neutral, alkaline | **Host plant/forage plant:** bees, birds | **Extreme environments:** tolerant to dryness

### PLANTKENMERKEN

**Flowers:** striking, singular, big | **Flower colour:** dark pink | **Flowering period:** April - May | **Leaf colour:** buds bronze, green | **Leaves:** deciduous, ovoid, serrate, doubly serrate, dentate | **Autumn colour:** orange-red | **Fruits:** rarely fruits, small, cherry | **Fruit colour:** dark red | **Bark colour:** red-brown | **Bark:** slightly furrowed | **Twig colour:** grey-brown | **Twigs:** bare, with lenticels | **Root system:** extensive, highly branched, clinging aerial roots