Prunus serrulata 'Taihaku'
Great White Cherry, Taihaku

Prunus serrulata 'Taihaku' (Great White Cherry, 'Taihaku', synonym: *Prunus serrulata* 'Tai-Haku') was considered lost in Japan and in 1930, was only known to exist as an image in an antique painting. The English captain and botanist Collingwood 'Cherry' Ingram came across the old drawing and recognised the exceptionally large blossoms of an old worn tree in Sussex, England. That turned out to be a specimen of the cultivar introduced in 1899. By taking cuttings from this tree, the *Prunus serrulata* 'Taihaku' was saved and reintroduced in Japan and the rest of the world. The tree has a wide, vase-shaped crown and grows to be about 8 - 10 metres tall and wide.

In late April, the 'Tai-haku' cultivar spectacularly blooms striking single cherry blossoms: the blossoms grow to be up to 6 centimetres across. *Taihaku* means 'Great White' in Japanese. Bees and butterflies love the blossoms and are very good at finding them. *Prunus serrulata* 'Taihaku' is the only white blossoming Japanese cherry trees to have brown to brown-green budding leaves and fantastic yellow-orange autumn colours as it blossoms. The bark of the tree stands out with its prominent lenticels, so characteristic of Japanese cherry trees.

The Great White Cherry is a very healthy Japanese cherry tree. For optimal growth, give the tree a place in the sun, sheltered from wind, in nutrient-rich but permeable soil. *Prunus serrulata* 'Taihaku' thrives in (large) gardens and parks as a standard or multi-stem tree. With its wide, low crown shape, the species cannot be used in streets.

SEASONAL COLOURS

jan feb mar apr mei jun jul aug sep okt nov dec

TYPES OF PLANTING

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

USE

Location: park, central reservation, large garden, cemetery | **Pavement**: none | **Planting concepts**: Eco planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: wide vase-shaped | **Crown structure**: semi-open | **Height**: 8 - 10 m | **Width**: 8 - 10 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**: acidic, neutral | **Host plant/forage plant**: bees, butterflies, nectar value 3, pollen value 3

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: raceme, striking, pendulous, singular, big | **Flower colour**: white, pale pink | **Flowering period**: April - April | **Leaf colour**: buds bronze, green | **Leaves**: deciduous, ovate, big, serrate | **Autumn colour**: yellow-orange | **Fruits**: rarely fruits, drupe | **Fruit colour**: black | **Bark colour**: grey-brown | **Bark**: slightly furrowed | **Twig colour**: grey-brown | **Twigs**: bare, with lenticels, pendulous | **Root system**: shallow, highly branched

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