



Prunus serrulata 'Kwanzan' Kwanzan Cherry¹

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INTRODUCTION

Kwanzan Cherry has double-pink, very attractive flowers and is usually purchased and planted for this reason (Fig. 1). The upright-spreading form, reaching 15 to 25 feet tall, is quite attractive in many locations including near a patio or as a specimen away from lawn grass competition. The tree is glorious in flower and has been planted along with Yoshino Cherry in Washington, D.C., for the annual Cherry Blossom Festival. Kwanzan Cherry has good yellow fall color, does not bear fruit, but is troubled with pests. It prefers full sun, is intolerant of poor drainage, and is easily transplanted. However, useful life of the species is limited to about 15 to 25 years for 'Kwanzan', on a good site. But the tree is a joy during this short period and should be planted.

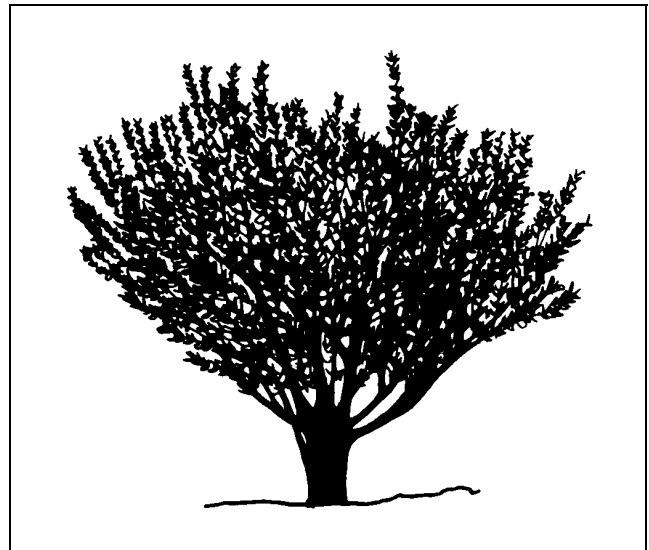


Figure 1. Middle-aged Kwanzan Cherry.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific name: *Prunus serrulata* 'Kwanzan'
Pronunciation: PROO-nus sair-yoo-LAY-tuh
Common name(s): Kwanzan Cherry
Family: *Rosaceae*
USDA hardiness zones: 5B through 9A (Fig. 2)
Origin: not native to North America
Uses: Bonsai; container or above-ground planter; large parking lot islands (> 200 square feet in size); wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; near a deck or patio; trainable as a standard; specimen; residential street tree; no proven urban tolerance
Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

DESCRIPTION

Height: 15 to 25 feet
Spread: 15 to 25 feet
Crown uniformity: symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more or less identical crown forms
Crown shape: upright; vase shape
Crown density: moderate
Growth rate: medium
Texture: medium

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate (Fig. 3)
Leaf type: simple
Leaf margin: serrate
Leaf shape: lanceolate; ovate
Leaf venation: banchidodrome; pinnate
Leaf type and persistence: deciduous
Leaf blade length: 4 to 8 inches; 2 to 4 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: copper; orange; yellow
Fall characteristic: showy

Flower

Flower color: pink
Flower characteristics: spring flowering; very showy

Fruit

Fruit shape: round
Fruit covering: fleshy
Fruit characteristics: does not attract wildlife; inconspicuous and not showy; no significant litter problem; rare

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: bark is thin and easily damaged from mechanical impact; grow mostly upright and will not droop; showy trunk; should be grown with a single leader; no thorns
Pruning requirement: needs little pruning to develop a strong structure
Breakage: resistant
Current year twig color: brown
Current year twig thickness: medium

Culture

Light requirement: tree grows in full sun
Soil tolerances: clay; loam; sand; acidic; occasionally wet; alkaline; well-drained
Drought tolerance: moderate
Aerosol salt tolerance: moderate
Soil salt tolerance: poor

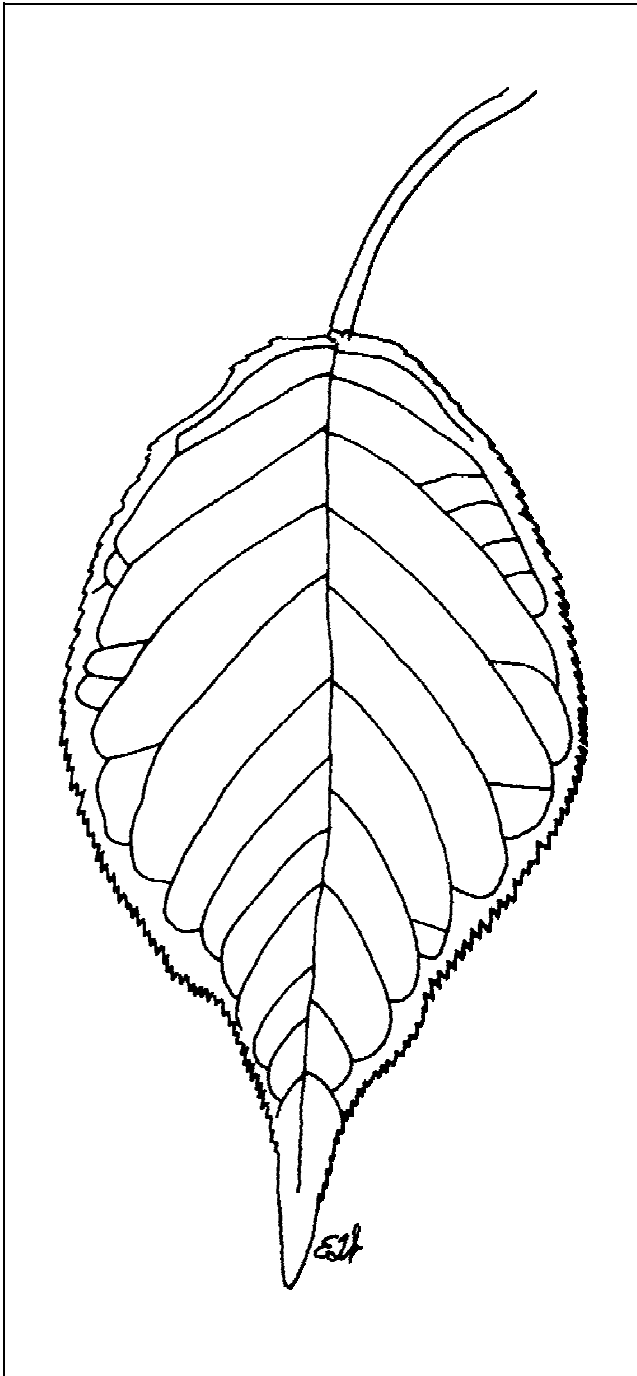


Figure 3. Foliage of Kwanzan Cherry.

Other

Roots: surface roots are usually not a problem

Winter interest: no special winter interest

Outstanding tree: tree has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

Invasive potential: little, if any, potential at this time

Verticillium wilt susceptibility: susceptible

Pest resistance: very sensitive to one or more pests or diseases which can affect tree health or aesthetics

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Neither stress-tolerant or highly drought-tolerant, Kwanzan Cherry should be located on a site with loose soil and plenty of moisture. Not for an urban parking lot or exposed street tree planting where borers and other problems normally attack. It has some tolerance to salt, and tolerates clay if well-drained.

There are many other cultivars of Oriental Cherry but few are readily available. Some which may be locally available include: 'Amanogawa' ('Erecta') - semi-double, light pink, fragrant flowers, narrow columnar habit, about 20 feet tall; 'Fugenzo' ('James H. Veitch', 'Kofugen') - spreading habit, flowers 2.5 inches across, rose pink fading to light pink, double, 'Kofugen' sometimes described as having deeper color; 'Shirofugen' - rapid growth rate, young foliage bronze later turning green, flowers double, 2.5 inches across, pink fading to white; 'Shirotae' ('Mt. Fuji', 'Kojima') - flowers double to semi-double, white, ruffled, about 2.5 inches across; 'Shogetsu' - tree 15 feet tall, broad and flat-topped, flowers double, pale pink, center may be white, can be two inches across; 'Ukon' - young foliage bronze, flowers pale yellow, semi-double.

Pests

Aphids cause distortion of new growth, deposits of honeydew, and sooty mold.

Borers attack flowering cherries. Keep trees healthy with regular fertilizer applications, and irrigation during drought.

Scales of several types infest cherries. Horticultural oil can be used to help control overwintering stages.

Spider mites cause yellowing or stippling but they are very difficult to see. They are usually noticed after leaves begin showing severe symptoms.

Tent caterpillars make large webbed nests in trees then eat the foliage. One defoliation may not be serious and small nests can be pruned out and destroyed. Use *Bacillus thuringiensis* when the insects are first seen and are still small.

Diseases

A bacterium causes leaf spot and twig cankers on cherry. Small, reddish spots dry, and drop out, giving a shot holed appearance. Defoliation can be severe when conditions favor disease development. Fertilize infected trees and prune out infected branches.

Black knot causes black swellings or galls on the branches. Branches with galls are pruned out.

Powdery mildew causes a white coating on the leaves, but control is seldom, if ever, warranted.