

# The Cherry Collection



**THE SCOTT ARBORETUM  
OF SWARTHMORE COLLEGE**

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## About Flowering Cherries

Many of the ornamental flowering cherries growing in our gardens today were introduced from Japan within the last century. Although the exact origin of many is unclear, they have been cultivated in the orient for hundreds of years.

Created in April of 1931, the Cherry Collection at Swarthmore College was a gift of Mrs. Allen K. White, Class of 1894, in honor of Carolien Hayes White Powers, Class of 1922. Thirty-four varieties, two plants of each, were planted in a semi-circle from the Meeting House to the President's House and along Cedar Lane. Over the years the collection has been refined and expanded in 1985 to include a memorial garden dedicated to Suzanne Schmidt, Class of 1946. The cherry border now displays over 50 types of ornamental cherries recommended for growing in the Delaware Valley.

The collection as a whole provides a long sequence of bloom, beginning with *Prunus subhirtella* 'Scott Early' in early April. The collection showcases a range of flower colors from pure white to the deepest of pinks, in single, semi-double and double flowers. The display also offers a good comparison to the habit of various types of ornamental cherries, from the shrubby *P. incisa* to the small, columnar *P.* 'Amanogawa', to the large, spreading Yoshino cherry (*P. x yedoensis*) which may reach 50'.

Part of the rose family, the genus *Prunus* includes over 400 species, some hybrids and innumerable cultivars and varieties. In addition to cherries, it includes almonds, apricots, nectarines, peaches and plums. Although many of these plants are grown for their edible fruit, the flowering cherries are cultivated primarily for their ornamental bloom. Many also have attractive bark or colorful fall foliage, extending their season of interest.

One of the many plant collections at the Scott Arboretum, the flowering cherries are valued for their early spring blooms. Each plant is labeled. Other plants of interest in the Cherry Border include spring flowering bulbs, rhododendrons, and daylilies.

## Cherries in our Collection

### Blooming Times

Early - first week in April  
Mid-season - second week in April  
Late - third or fourth week in April

### Tree Habit

Shrub - multi-stemmed, under 15'  
Small tree - 15-20'  
Medium tree - 20-30'

### Early Flowering

**Prunus 'Accolade'** - a hybrid between *P. sargentii* and *subhirtella*. Small trees with spreading branches producing rich pink semi-double flowers in pendulous clusters.

**P. 'Dream Catcher'** - moderate-sized, upright tree produces single, clear medium-pink flowers that bloom in early spring; dark green leaves without blemish throughout the summer; yellowish orange fall color; and an upright, vase-shaped winter silhouette.

### **P. 'Hally Jolivette'**

Small graceful tree or shrub to 15', inundated with small, semi-double blush-white flowers which continue over a long period.

### **P. incisa**

Shrub or small tree producing small white flowers, pink-tinged in bud.

### **P. incisa 'February Pink'**

Early flowering form of *P. incisa* with pale pink flowers.

### **P. 'Okame'** - a hybrid between *P. incisa* and *P. campanulata*

Small vase-shaped tree with clusters of carmine-rose nodding single flowers opening before the leaves. Flowers are preceded by maroon buds and followed by persistent red calyces, extending the "flowering" season. Bark purple-brown.

### **P. subhirtella - Spring Cherry**

An extremely variable small to medium-sized tree. It includes among its many forms some of the earliest flowering cherries.

### **P. subhirtella 'Scott Early'**

Wide spreading tree producing faint pink blossoms. This early blooming clone originated from an unnamed plant purchased from Japan by Edith Wilder Scott, founder of the Scott Arboretum. One of our earliest of our *P. subhirtella* to bloom.

### Mid-Season

### **P. 'Royal Burgundy' - Royal Burgundy Flowering Cherry**

This deciduous tree is slightly slower growing than *P. 'Sekiyama'*. Flowering with magenta blooms, 'Royal Burgundy' produces purplish leaves.

### **P. subhirtella 'Pendula Plena Rosea'**

This small weeping cherry produces double, deep-pink-flowers. It is easily identified by its red pitcher shaped calyx with equally red flower buds that show the yellow stigma on the outer end of the style.

### **P. triloba 'Multiplex' - Double Flowering Plum**

Medium to large shrub (12-15'), producing large, double, peach-pink flowers. Yellow-bronze fall color.

**P. sargentii - Sargent Cherry**

Round-headed large tree with dark chestnut-brown bark, producing slightly fragrant single, deep pink flowers. Early orange-crimson fall color.

**P. X yedoensis - Yoshino Cherry**

Rounded, spreading tree to 40-50'. Produces slightly fragrant white flowers in racemes.

**P. X yedoensis 'Afterflow'**

A selection of the Yoshino cherry with bright pink flowers.

**P. 'Fudanzakura'**

A 40' tall by 30' wide tree with 1.5" flowers that are pale pink in bud opening to pure white. Under proper weather conditions the tree blooms in various periods from November through early April.

**Late Flowering**

**P. 'Amanogawa'**

Small columnar tree with erect branches, producing dense upright clusters of fragrant, semi-double shell pink flowers.

**P. 'Higurashi'**

Cup-shaped tree, producing double pinkish-white flowers. Shiny brown bark.

**P. 'Hizakura'**

Small tree producing single deep-pink flowers with purplish-brown calyces. Young leaves are coppery-red.

**P. 'Ojochin'**

Stout tree with single pink flowers borne in long-stalked clusters. Young leaves bronze-brown, becoming large and leathery when mature.

**P. 'Shirofugen'**

Strong-growing, wide-spreading tree to 35'. Flowers large, double, pink in bud opening white then fading to purplish-pink, produced in long-stalked clusters.

**P. 'Shirotae' - Mt. Fuji Cherry**

A small vigorous tree with wide-spreading, horizontal branches. Fragrant snow-white flowers with very large, single or semi-double in long drooping clusters. Leaves have distinctive fringed appearance.

**P. 'Shogetsu'**

Small tree, to 15', with wide-spreading branches forming a broad, flattened crown. Large fringed double flowers are pink-tinted in bud, opening to pure white, borne along the branches in long-stalked clusters.

**P. 'Snow Goose'**

Small tree with ascending branches producing pure white flowers before the leaves.

**P. 'Tai-haku' - Great White Cherry**

Vigorous tree, to 25' in height, producing pure white single flowers which contrast well with the coppery-red young leaves.

**P. 'Ukon'**

Vigorous sparsely branched tree with semi-double pale, yellowish-green flowers, effective against the brownish-bronze young leaves. Purplish brown fall color.

**About the Scott Arboretum**

The Scott Arboretum is a green oasis uniquely situated on the Swarthmore College campus. Over 300 acres create the College landscape and provide a display of the best ornamental plants recommended for Delaware Valley gardens.

Established in 1929 as a living memorial to Arthur Hoyt Scott, Class of 1895, through a bequest from his family, the Arboretum continues to thrive today. There are over 4,000 different kinds of plants grown on the campus, selected for their outstanding ornamental qualities, ease of maintenance, and resistance to disease. Major plant collections include: flowering cherries, crabapples, hollies, lilacs, magnolias, tree peonies, rhododendrons, hydrangeas, conifers, vines and summer flowering shrubs, viburnums, and witch-hazels. Special gardens include the Rose Garden, the Fragrance Garden, the Entrance Garden and Teaching Garden surrounding the Scott offices, the Biostream, the Winter Garden, the Nason Garden, the Cosby Courtyard, and the Harry Wood Courtyard Garden.

Maps and specialized brochures on plants growing on the campus are available at the Arboretum headquarters, which also houses a horticultural reference library. The Arboretum grounds are open from dawn to dusk year-round. Admission is free. The Arboretum is supported in part by the Associates of the Scott Arboretum, a membership group. For additional information, call 610-328-8025, Monday through Friday, 8:30 to noon and 1:30-4:30.

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500 College Avenue  
Swarthmore, PA 19081-1397  
610-328-8025  
[www.scottarboretum.org](http://www.scottarboretum.org)