
ORNAMENTAL FRUIT TREE

Flowering Crabapple (*Malus spp.*)

Crabapples are closely related to dessert apples, but bearing much smaller edible fruit and typically a showier display of blooms, fruit, and foliage. They provide greater multi-season interest than other ornamental fruit trees, in addition to floriferous blooms and fall color, their fruit tends to be showy, displaying contrasting colors against the darker foliage. Birds tend to eat most of the fruit, so it isn't as messy as it may seem. Crabapples are often more drought tolerant and disease resistant than other flowering fruit trees also, making for a great low maintenance specimen tree pick.

Flowering Cherry (*Prunus spp.*)

Despite its name, the flowering cherry rarely produces fruit. Even if your tree does produce some fruit, it is usually claimed by the bird. Flowering cherries are known to produce breathtaking white and pink blossoms in March and April. Blooms are followed by reddish foliage that turn green during the growing season and matures to yellow- orange for a fall display.

Flowering cherries prefer loose, well-drained soil and full sun or partial shade. You should also consider where the tree is placed as surfaces that attract heat can harm the plant and falling blossoms become slippery when wet on smooth surfaces. It is also recommended to keep your tree away from paved areas as the roots can push the soil up over time, causing potential damage to your walkway.

Flowering Pears (*Pyrus spp.*)

Flowering pears are usually grown for their upright growth habit and heavy spring bloom. Most of the varieties of commonly grown flowering pears are varieties of *Pyrus calleryana*. The first hybrids were actually developed by the USDA when trying to breed disease resistance into the fruiting pear. The immense popularity of these hybrids was not initially anticipated, but has happened nonetheless.

One of the first hybrids, 'Bradford', is still very famous and popular, has become the parent of a lot of hybrids, and has its own home in Washington D.C. with a plaque. All pear varieties will flower white in early spring. Their fall color is generally a rich red color, and their leaves are very glossy.

Flowering pears are extremely tolerant of heat, drought, and compacted soil, which is why they are such popular street trees. They are usually pretty narrow also, making them a good candidate for a narrower area. They are also occasionally used as a hedge, although this may take a little work. On one note, you probably don't want to plant these really close to a house because the odor of the blooms is not exactly pleasant. They will actually produce fruit, but it is usually very tiny, hard, and generally inedible.

Flowering Plums (*Prunus cerasifera.*)

Flowering plums are actually very close in their family tree to flowering cherries. The major attraction of this group is all of the purple leaf hybrids that it has produced. If you've seen a tree with small, deep purple leaves, chances are it was a plum. Often used as a street tree, or small shade tree, use the plums wherever you need a color contrast. The flowers are generally pink-almost white, and fruit set can occur in some years with certain varieties. The plums are usually quite a bit more pest and disease tolerant than cherries