

10,000 TREES INITIATIVE

TREE INFO CARD

Cherries

(Prunus spp.)

Get to know your tree:

The cherry is a group of species, some of which are native to Michigan. Most species of cherry have medium-sized, finely-toothed leaves with pointed tips. Fall leaf color ranges from yellow to red. Flowers are typically showy and are white or pink in color. Fruits are red to purplish-black drupes with large pit seeds. Some species have edible fruits, while others produce inedible fruits or do not fruit at all. Bark is typically smooth, grey or reddish in color, and has prominent horizontal lenticels, particularly on younger individuals. Bark can become peeling or scaly with age.

Tree benefits:

Each year, a 1-inch diameter cherry provides approximately \$9.00 in benefits and reduces atmospheric CO₂ levels by 11 pounds. To learn more about the benefits provided by your tree, or to see the benefits provided by larger cherries, visit www.treebenefits.com.



Fun facts about your tree:

Black cherry (*Prunus serotina*) leaves contain a compound that is converted to cyanide when the leaf is damaged. Most herbivores are deterred by this, but tent caterpillars are able to tolerate the toxin and even regurgitate it as a defense mechanism against predators.

There are over 1,000 named varieties of sweet cherry (*P. avium*), with the most popular in the United States being the Bing cherry.



Plant your tree:

When choosing where to plant this tree, consider spots with at least partial sun exposure (at least 4 hours of sun per day), though some species require full sun exposure (at least 6 hours of sun per day). Most species of cherry grow to heights of 15-40 feet, with a spread of around 20-30 feet. Most cherry species do best in moist, slightly acidic soils.

For detailed planting instructions, please visit www.arborday.org/trees/planting. And always make sure to call Miss Dig (1-800-482-7171) to mark underground utilities before digging on your property!

Care for your tree:

The water requirements of cherries vary with species, but most are moderately tolerant of drought. Watering should be done during dry periods - especially in the summer - but there's no set amount of water your tree needs. Instead, how much you water should be based on the soil. Check the soil at a depth of two inches - if it's moist, there's no need to water. But if it's dry, you should water your tree! Make sure not to water if the temperature is below freezing. Most trees need watering during the first two years after planting - but keep an eye on older trees as well.

