

Prunus Mume

Common Name: Japanese apricot/Japanese plum

Do you have a *Prunus x Yedoensis* (Yoshino cherry) tree or two in your yard? As you know that [Prunus x Yedoensis](#) are a favorite variety at cherry blossom festivals. Are you familiar with equally beautiful [Prunus Mume](#), also known as Japanese apricots/Japanese plum. They are known as *Ume* (梅) in Japanese.

If you are looking for a spring blooming tree with pink blossoms, consider *Prunus Mume* trees. These trees are more compact and ideal for a smaller yard. They grow 15 to 20 feet high and spread 15 to 20 feet wide. Japanese apricot trees are winter hardy to zones 6 through 9. They grow well in well-drained acidic loamy soil. Japanese apricot blossoms offer sweet fragrance in late January to February. It is not uncommon to see pale pink flowers blooming in the snow. Also, Japanese apricot offers interesting foliage spring through late fall. If you are lucky enough to find a fruit bearing variety, you can enjoy fuzzy-skinned, green to yellow apricots (to 1" diameter). These apricots are the main ingredient of [plum wine](#). Give *Prunus Mume* a try in your yard or in your bonsai collections!

Photographs:
H. Burch

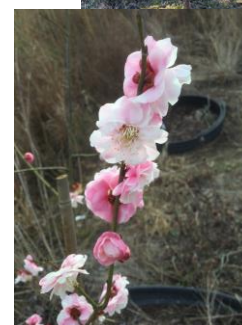
Information Sources:

["Prunus x yedoensis"](#) Missouri Botanical Garden

["Prunus mume"](#) Missouri Botanical Garden

["四季折々の美しさを持つウメの木。ご自宅に植えて花を咲かせよう"](#) Plantia by HYPONex

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	Prunus mume	Prunus x yedoensis
Common Name	Japanese apricot	yoshino cherry
Type	tree	tree
Family	Rosaceae	Rosaceae
Zone	6 to 9	5 to 8
Height	15.00 to 20.00 feet	30.00 to 40.00 feet
Spread	15.00 to 20.00 feet	30.00 to 40.00 feet
Bloom Time	February to March	March to April
Bloom Description	pink	white, sometimes tinged pink
Sun	full sun to part shade	full sun to part shade
Water	medium	medium
Soil	acidic loams, well-drained	adaptable to a wide range of soil
Maintenance	low	high
Suggested use	flowering tree	shade tree, street tree, flowering tree
Flower	showy, fragrant	showy, fragrant
Fruit	showy, edible	showy
Leaf	-	good fall
Other	winter interest	attracts birds & butterflies
	<p>Culture Winter hardy to USDA Zones 6-8 where it is grown in average, medium moisture, well-drained, acidic loams in full sun to part shade. Best flowering is in full sun. Foliage appreciates some part afternoon shade in the hot summers of the deep South. Avoid heavy clays and poorly drained wet soils. Prune if needed immediately after flowering. This plant is marginally winter hardy to the St. Louis area where it should be planted in a protected location. Unfortunately, protected locations may encourage the flowers to open early and succumb to freezing temperatures.</p> <p>Noteworthy Characteristics <i>Prunus mume</i>, commonly called Japanese apricot, is primarily grown for ornamental purposes, and in particular for its mid to late</p>	<p>Culture Grow in average, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Best in full sun. Tolerates heat and humidity, but not drought. Adaptable to a wide range of soils.</p> <p>Noteworthy Characteristics <i>Prunus × yedoensis</i>, commonly called Yoshino cherry, is a graceful ornamental flowering cherry tree that typically grows 30-40' tall with a spreading, broad-rounded, open crown. Fragrant white (sometimes tinged pink) flowers in 3 to 6-flowered clusters (racemes) appear before or simultaneous to the emergence of the foliage in a profuse and spectacular early spring bloom. Flowers are followed by small black cherries (1/2" diameter) which are bitter to humans but loved by birds. Serrate, dark green leaves (to 5" long) are elliptic to oval. Foliage turns yellow and with</p>

	<p>winter bloom of pink flowers. It is native to China, Taiwan, Korea and Japan. It is an upright, fast-growing, deciduous tree that typically grows to 15-20' tall with a rounded form. It may be trained as a large shrub. Spicily fragrant pink flowers (solitary or in pairs) bloom in winter (February – March in St. Louis but earlier in mild winter climates) before the leaves emerge. Flowers have red calyxes and yellowish stamens. Flowers are followed by fuzzy-skinned, green to yellow apricots (to 1" diameter) with clinging stones. Apricots ripen in summer. Apricots are technically edible fresh from the plant (some say bitter and inedible), but are at any rate of very poor quality in comparison to commercially sold common apricots (<i>Prunus armeniaca</i>). Fruits may be harvested for use in making jams and preserves. Broad-oval leaves (2-4" long) are sharply-serrulate.</p> <p>Genus name from Latin means plum or cherry tree.</p> <p>Specific epithet is a variant of the Japanese name <i>umi</i> for a species of <i>Prunus</i>.</p> <p>Problems Cold temperatures in late winter may damage the flowers and subsequent fruit. Plants generally flower better in the southern parts of their growing range than in the northern parts including St. Louis. If fruits appear, they can be rather messy if allowed</p>	<p>bronze tints in fall. This hybrid cherry comes from Japan and is one of the predominant cherry trees planted in Washington D.C.</p> <p>Genus name from Latin means plum or cherry tree.</p> <p>Specific epithet means of Yedo (now Tokyo), Japan.</p> <p>Problems Cherries are susceptible to a large number of insect and disease pests. Potential diseases include leaf spot, die back and leaf curl. Potential insects include aphids, scale, borers, caterpillars and Japanese beetles. Spider mites may also be troublesome.</p> <p>Uses Spring flowers are the best ornamental feature. Excellent small to medium-sized tree for lawns, along streets, adjacent to decks or patios. Effective as a specimen or in groups.</p>
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	<p>to drop to the ground. Potential insect pests include aphids, scale and borers. Potential disease problems include bacterial canker and brown rot.</p> <p>Uses In St. Louis, plants are best sited in sunny but protected locations in the landscape such as areas on south side of a house. Excellent along walkways or near decks or patios. Specimen or groups.</p>	
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Source

Missouri Botanical Garden

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=286543>

Gunma Prefecture

<https://www.pref.gunma.jp/site/midorisoudan/1272.html>

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