

## **NANKING CHERRY (*Prunus tomentosa*)**

### **Growth Habit/Form**

Height: 6' to 10'; Spread: 4' to 6'; moderately fast growing; can be short lived, although shrubs in Elizabethtown, NY have thrived for over 16 years with no special care.

Small whitish-pink flowers cover the shrub in early spring. Dark green leaves change to yellow in fall. Dark reddish brown bark is attractive in the winter.

**Cultivation:** Easy to grow and hardy to Zone 2, plants prefer full sun and need at least 6 hours of full sun to fruit. Plants prefer loamy soils with a pH of 5.0 to 7.5. Plant 6 to 30 ft. apart depending on how you will use in the landscape. [Plants require cross pollination]

Roots grow to a medium depth and medium spread. Dig a hole larger and deeper than the roots so roots can spread.

Tolerant of dry and/or windy conditions.

**Pruning:** Prune damaged/diseased stems and crossing branches in late winter. Plants may be shaped after they fruit in June.

### **Fruit:**

Fruit is small (1/2-5/8" diameter) and dark red with a large pit. Fruit is attractive to some birds and delicious made into pie, jelly, syrup and wine or liqueur. Search Google for a variety of recipes. A standard size cherry pitter will not work, so choose recipes that do not require the fruit be pitted prior to cooking.

### **Landscape Uses:**

Plants can be used as hedges, windbreaks, or specimen plantings.

### **Pollinators:**

Flowers are attractive to bees and other pollinators.

### **Pests/Diseases:**

Generally considered pest resistant; in the Elizabethtown, NY area, Japanese beetles are attracted to leaves of some plants, but do little damage and keep beetles away from other plants.

Deer seem uninterested in the plants, once plants are established. It is a good idea to protect young plants with fencing.

CAH  
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