



Cherrylaurel

(*Prunus laurocerasus* 'Otto Luyken')

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Summary

Foliage: Evergreen broadleaf Height: 4 feet

Spread: 8 feet

Shape: Spreading

The species (*Prunus laurocerasus*) is generally not sold in the U.S. Cultivars of cherrylaurel are low-growing with handsome glossy foliage and white flowers in spring. This species tolerates shade and is used as a border, hedge, and in mass.

Plant Needs

Zone: 6b (6a) to 9

Light: Full to partial shade to full sun

Moisture: Moist to dry

Soil Type: Sandy, loam, or clay loam

pH Range: 3.7 to 7.3

Functions

Suggested uses for this plant include hedge and massing.

Planting Notes

Adapts well to sun or shade. Plant in well drained soils! Salt tolerant.

Care

Tolerates heavy pruning and shearing.

Problems

More disease and insect resistant than other *Prunus* species.

Root rot can be a problem if planted in a wet or poorly drained location.

Alternatives

Consult local garden centers historic or public gardens and arboreta regarding cultivars and related species that grow well in your area.

Cultivars of *Prunus laurocerasus*:

'Otto Luyken' has a distinct horizontal growth habit and is one of the most cold hardy cultivars.

'Schipkaensis' (Schipka Cherrylaurel) is a low-growing (5 feet tall) and wide spreading cultivar that is hardier (zone 5) than other cultivars.

'Zabeliana' grows to 5 feet tall and is quite wide spreading. Generally cherrylaurel cultivars are sold in the nursery trade since the species is a large shrub/small tree.

Comments

This is a relatively slow-growing, wide-spreading shrub that forms a handsome hedge; it can also be used a background for other smaller plants.

Cherrylaurel is a good plant to use near the ocean because of its tolerance to salt spray.

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