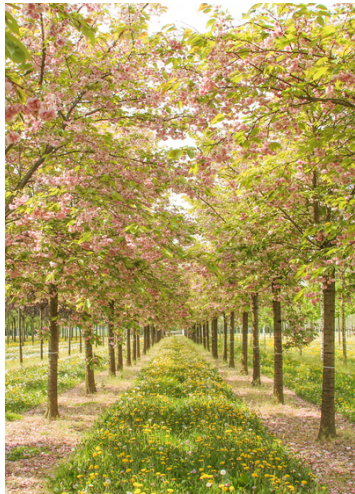


# *Prunus serrulata* 'Fugenzo'

## Fugenzo oriental cherry, Shirofugen oriental cherry



*Prunus serrulata* 'Fugenzo' ('Fugenzo' oriental cherry, 'Shirofugen' oriental cherry) is a historic ornamental cherry offering classical beauty. This variety has already been in culture for a century in western countries and for at least five centuries in Japan. Over this time, many variants have been developed, which were later given their own names. 'Fugenzo' and the synonym 'Shirofugen' refer to the holy white elephant in the Buddhist religion, ridden by the holy man Fugen. The tree was given this name because the pistil looks like an elephant's trunk and the loose and open flower petals look like the hanging ears and skin of an elephant. The ornamental cherry 'Fugenzo' can reach a mature height of 15 metres and has a wide, vase-shaped crown.

The light-pink to snow-white, flat, open, filled flowers appear at the end of April or beginning of May, hanging in racemes. They look beautiful against the emerging bronze-red leaves. Just before the flowers fall, they turn an intense pink and then the tree looks from a distance like a *Prunus serrulata* 'Kanzan'. The flowers fall from the tree not petal by petal but as whole heads. The leaves of 'Fugenzo' are dark-green and turn yellow-orange in the autumn. The bark is light-brown on a young tree but becomes darker as the tree ages.

Like most ornamental cherries, *Prunus serrulata* 'Fugenzo' rarely lives to be older than 100. The tree thrives best in nutrient-rich and damp loam, coarse sand, loess or richer sand and lighter clay soils. The ornamental cherry 'Fugenzo' is a healthy cultivar, as long as the ground it stands in is not too wet. The tree comes into its own best in a sheltered position in the sun in a small or large garden, or in the park.

### TYPES OF PLANTING

**Tree types:** standard trees, multi-stemmed trees | **Topiary on stem:** multi-stem umbrella

### USE

**Location:** park, central reservation, large garden, cemetery | **Pavement:** none

### CHARACTERISTICS

**Crown shape:** wide vase-shaped | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 7 - 10 m | **Width:** 5 - 8 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 6A - 8B

### ASPECTS

**Wind:** intolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level:** rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** dry, moist | **Light requirements:** sun | **pH range:** neutral, alkaline (7.8 - 8.2)

### PLANTKENMERKEN

**Flowers:** raceme, bowl-shaped, striking, stuffed, big, second bloom | **Flower colour:** white-pink, pale pink, pink-violet | **Flowering period:** May - May | **Leaf colour:** buds bronze, green | **Leaves:** deciduous, ovoid, doubly serrate | **Autumn colour:** yellow-orange | **Fruits:** no fruit | **Bark colour:** dark brown | **Bark:** slightly furrowed | **Twig colour:** brown | **Twigs:** bare, with lenticels | **Root system:** shallow, slightly branched

