

Prunus serrulata 'Kanzan'

Kanzan oriental cherry, Sekiyama oriental cherry



Prunus serrulata 'Kanzan' (Kanzan oriental cherry, synonym: *Prunus serrulata* 'Sekiyama') was first described in the Japanese plant guide *Kadan-komoku* in 1681. Like its synonym *Sekiyama*, the name *Kanzan* means 'bordering mountain'. This cultivar is the most widely planted Japanese cherry tree in the West and in the Tokyo area, this variety is also very often used, though the tree is rarely found elsewhere in Japan. The Kanzan oriental cherry has a wide, vase-shaped habit that sags a bit in older trees, because the tips of the twigs that are heavy with flowers start to hang. Furthermore, the selection forms branches that bend back to the heart of the tree, making its characteristic wine glass shape visible from afar. *Prunus serrulata* 'Kanzan' grows up to 10 metres high and about as wide.

In late April, early May, *Prunus serrulata* 'Kanzan' blooms abundantly with stuffed pink flowers in racemes of two to five each. Simultaneous with the blossoms, the egg-shaped, serrate leaves bud bronze, then turn green in the summer. Depending on its environment, *Prunus serrulata* 'Kanzan' has beautiful yellow to orange-yellow autumn leaves. The tree has brown, furrowed bark and the twigs are red-brown and open with the characteristic lenticels. *Prunus serrulata* 'Kanzan' rarely bears fruit.

The tree shows itself to be a true harbinger of spring with its abundant blooms in parks, streets, avenues and large gardens, where it is often planted in groups or as a single tree. For use in streets, please note that the tree only thrives in open pavement. The Kanzan oriental cherry is not only used a lot for its abundant blossoms; it is also characterised by healthy, rapid growth which has made the cultivar very popular. *Prunus serrulata* 'Kanzan' thrives in a sheltered, slightly shady environment, in nutrient-rich but permeable soil.

SEASONAL COLOURS



TYPES OF PLANTING

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

USE

Location: street, avenue, square, park, central reservation, large garden, cemetery | **Pavement:** none, open

CHARACTERISTICS

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

ASPECTS

Wind: intolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level:** moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** dry, moist | **Light requirements:** sun | **pH range:** neutral, alkaline (7.8 - 8.0)

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: raceme, striking, pendulous, stuffed, scented | **Flower colour:** pink | **Flowering period:** April - May | **Leaf colour:** buds bronze, green | **Leaves:** deciduous, ovate, matt polished, serrate | **Autumn colour:** yellow, yellow-orange | **Fruits:** rarely fruits, cherry | **Fruit colour:** red-violet | **Bark colour:** brown | **Bark:** slightly furrowed | **Twig colour:** red-brown | **Twigs:** with lenticels, pendulous, thickly branched | **Root system:** shallow, slightly branched