

Prunus 'The Bride'

The Bride ornamental cherry



Prunus 'The Bride' (ornamental cherry 'The Bride') is one of the very best ornamental cherries. The tree was discovered in 1989 as a seedling of *Prunus* 'Pandora' in Arboretum Kalmthout (Belgium) and selected in 1990 by its former director Harry van Trier. The cultivar is very healthy, easy to grow and has a fairly narrow crown. In maturity, the branches start to hang down, creating a wide vase-shaped crown with a flattened top. Ornamental cherry 'The Bride' resembles a miniature of *Prunus x yedoensis* and makes an excellent choice for where the latter will outgrow its site. *Prunus* 'The Bride' retains a rather more compact shape with a height of five to eight metres and four to six metres wide.

Cultivar name 'The Bride' was chosen because the exuberant white flowers resemble a huge bridal bouquet. The typical cherry blossom appears early in the spring before the foliage and consists of individual, cup-shaped white flowers. They are large, have a pink heart and form a valuable source of nectar for bees and bumblebees. The flower buds are pale pink and older flowers also turn pink with time. These are followed by oval, dark red cherries which are not especially striking. The fine, elongated to egg-shaped foliage emerges bronze red before changing to dark green and puts on a spectacular autumn display: ranging from yellow to red and everything in between. The bark is grey to grey brown and thanks to its delicate, overhanging twigs and elegant foliage, ornamental cherry 'The Bride' provides interest all year round.

Prunus 'The Bride' is a wonderful selection and perfectly suited for places where *Prunus x yedoensis* gets too large. For instance, defined borders in public spaces and (smaller) gardens. But this tree also goes well in containers for example - in a sheltered spot - and is a true harbinger of spring. Just like most ornamental cherries, *Prunus* 'The Bride' also likes a nutrient-rich site and the tree does not tolerate compaction, paved areas or high groundwater levels.

TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, multi-stemmed trees

USE

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

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: wide vase-shaped | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 4 - 8 m | **Width:** 5 - 6 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 6A - 9B

ASPECTS

Wind: slightly tolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level:** rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** moist | **Light requirements:** sun | **pH range:** neutral | **Host plant/forage plant:** bees | **Extreme environments:** tolerates air pollution

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: raceme, striking, singular | **Flower colour:** white | **Flowering period:** March - April | **Leaf colour:** buds bronze, bright green | **Leaves:** ovate, narrow, doubly serrate | **Autumn colour:** orange, red, red-violet | **Fruits:** discrete, rarely fruits, small, drupe | **Fruit colour:** dark red | **Bark colour:** grey-brown | **Bark:** furrowed, striped | **Twig colour:** grey | **Twigs:** bare, pendulous | **Root system:** deep, shallow

