

# Prunus serrulata Kanzan

## Prunus serrulata, Kanzan, Cherry blossom, Japanese cherry



The Kanzan cherry is the most popular cultivar of all the double-flowering cherries, thanks to its stunning pink blossoms, good fall color, lack of fruit, and vase-shaped form. It is a splendid specimen that can be planted in containers, along walks and streets, and in buffer strips. The Kanzan cherry can even be used as a bonsai tree. While it has a limited lifespan that typically doesn't exceed 15–25 years, the beauty of this tree makes it well worth planting.

## Attributes

This tree:

- Produces an amazing profusion of deep pink double flowers 2½" in diameter from April to early May.
- Features alternating leaves with an ovate to lanceolate shape and serrated margins. They are often reddish-copper as they emerge, turning dark green by summer and yellow, orange or bronze in the fall.
- Is sensitive to pollution and other stresses.
- Is a fruitless cultivar.
- Can be planted in containers, along walks and streets and in buffer strips. It can also be used as a bonsai specimen.
- Tends to have a limited life span on 15–25 years.
- Grows in a vase shape.

## History/Lore

Named after a mountain in Japan, the Kanzan (Kwanzan) cherry tree is native



to China, Japan and Korea. The original name is 'Sekiyama,' but it is rarely used. Introduced to America in 1903, it was made famous by the glorious floral displays at the annual Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C.

## Eible Uses

Edible Parts: Flowers , Fruit Seed

Edible Uses:



Fruit. The fruit is about 8 - 10mm in diameter and contains one large seed. The flowers are pickled in salt and consumed in tea or with rice gruel. Seed - raw or cooked. Do not eat the seed if it is too bitter - see the notes above on toxicity.

## Medicinal Uses

Plants For A Future can not take any responsibility for any adverse effects from the use of plants. Always seek

advice from a professional before using a plant medicinally.



Although no specific mention has been seen for this species, all members of the genus contain amygdalin and prunasin, substances which break down in water to form hydrocyanic acid (cyanide or prussic acid). In small amounts this exceedingly poisonous compound stimulates respiration,

improves digestion and gives a sense of well-being.

