

Prunus avium

COMMON NAME

sweet cherry

FAMILY

Rosaceae

AUTHORITY

Prunus avium (L.) L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

PRUAVI

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Forest margins, roadsides, scrub, hedgerows

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Deciduous suckering spreading tree, 5~12m high when mature, not armed; trunk tall. Leaf petiole 12~60mm long, glabrous; blade reasonably thin, usu. obovate to broadly elliptic, sometimes narrowly obovate or orbicular, 40~130 x 30~60mm, acute to short-acuminate at apex, obtuse at base, glabrous or glabrate above, tomentose below when young, soon glabrous, 1~2-serrate with teeth obtuse or subacute; stipules acuminate, deciduous. Flowers in umbel-like clusters of 2~4, on very short shoots, unfragrant, pendent; pedicels 25~50mm long, green and glabrous. Hypanthium urceolate; sepals triangular, 3~5mm long, blunt, glabrous, usu. tinged purplish, soon becoming strongly reflexed. Petals usu. 5 but sometimes many in double flowers, 11~19 x 8~17mm, broadly elliptic-oblong or elliptic-obovate, shallowly emarginate, white. Stamens approx. = petals; filaments whitish. Fruit 8~17mm diam., globose or nearly so, glabrous, dark red, occasionally remaining pinkish-red, usu. sweet, sometimes bitter; stone smooth. (- Webb et. al., 1988)

SIMILAR TAXA

A deciduous, suckering, spreading tree 5-12m when mature; flowers in clusters of 2-4 on short shoots; white petals; dark red fruit 8-17mm diameter (Webb et al., 1988).

FLOWERING

September, October, November

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

November to February

LIFE CYCLE

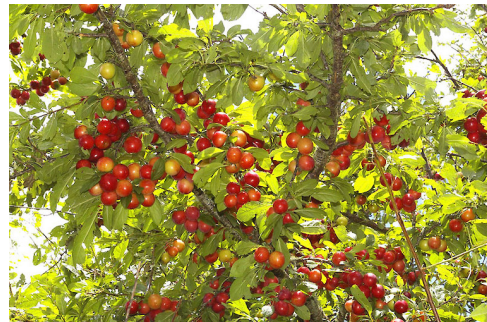
Perennial. Although it can form fairly dense stands, these result from seedlings rather than from suckers. Seeds dispersed by birds (Atkinson 1997).

YEAR NATURALISED

1872

ORIGIN

Europe



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REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Agricultural

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/prunus-avium/>