

## Oriental Cherry (*Prunus serrulata*)

The Oriental Cherry tree (*Prunus serrulata*), sometimes referred to as the “royal Japanese cherry tree” or simply the “Japanese cherry tree,” is a distinctive tree known for its pink and white cherry blossoms. These blossoms, which bloom for only a short period of time each spring, fall off the trees to create a snow-like effect on the ground beneath. As a result, these trees are a popular ornamental plant both in Japan and across the globe.

When cared for properly in their native environment, the Oriental Cherry tree can grow up to 75 feet tall. It’s not uncommon to see a white flowering cherry tree standing 50 feet tall or 40 feet wide, though many top out around 25 feet tall.

The “right environment” for an Oriental Cherry tree is an environment with fairly acidic soil and good drainage. These trees can survive in colder climates that experience deep freezes during the winter. Although the Oriental Cherry tree does not need constant direct sunlight to survive, trees that are exposed to long hours of full sun usually produce lusher, more attractive flower displays.