





Cherry (*Prunus avium*)

Type	Deciduous/ Evergreen	Height x Width (metres)	Spacing (metres)	Pollinator	Soil type	Sun	Moisture	Shelter	Plant	Harvest
	D	9+ x 6	6–10	Y				Y	Winter	Summer

Site

- Needs a sunny, sheltered site, protected from spring frosts. Needs winter chilling, and a dry spring and summer. Suits conditions in the east of this region.
- Prefers deep, well-drained soil – does not tolerate waterlogging.

Care

- Needs a lot of care.
- Plant in winter, well away from other large trees.
- Water regularly during the early stages and when the fruit is developing.
- Shallow-rooted, so weed carefully and mulch to retain moisture and suppress weeds. Keep underneath the tree clear of grass.
- Net against birds.
- Needs another variety for cross-pollination – try a double-graft.

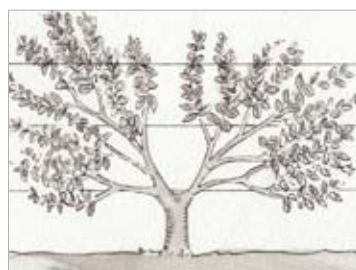
Training & pruning

- If you have space for a large tree, training it as a *modified central leader* will control its size.

Modified central leader



Fan shape



Adapted from *How to Make a Forest Garden*

- A tree grown on dwarf rootstock can be trained as a *fan* (see details for both shapes in 'Part 2 – Training').
- Fruits on 1- and 2-year-old wood, and on spurs on older wood. Fruiting spurs last for 10–12 years, so they don't need to be renewed as often as in other stonefruits.
- Each year, cut dead, damaged and unproductive laterals back to a replacement shoot.
- Shorten new shoots to encourage the development of fruiting spurs.
- Remove vigorous upright growth.
- Prune in dry weather in summer, after harvest, to reduce the risk of diseases.

Companions

- Chives, marigold, lettuce, nasturtium, red clover.

Harvest

- Fruits in third year. Ripens from early to late summer, depending on the variety.
- Pick with stalks attached when fully ripe, or if the fruit starts to split.
- Eat as soon as possible or freeze them.

Health

- High in vitamins A and C, antioxidants, iron, magnesium, potassium and fibre.
- Reported to reduce inflammation from rheumatoid arthritis and gout.

Recommended varieties

Early: Burlat, Summit, Rosann, Tangshe
Early/Mid: Rainier
Mid or late: Dawson, Bing, Stella, Lapins