

# North Dakota Tree Selector

**Scientific Name:** *Prunus besseyi*

**Family:** Rosaceae (Rose)

**Hardiness:** Zone 3

**Leaves:** Deciduous

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Growth**

**Rate:** Medium

**Mature Height:** 4-7'

**Longevity:** Medium

**Power Line:** Yes

**Ornamental**

**Flowers:** White

**Fruit:** Purple to black berries

**Fall Color:** Yellow

## Western Sandcherry

### Description

A small, winter-hardy, relatively short-lived shrub native to the northern Great Plains. Edible fruits which are dark purple to black. Purpleleaf sandcherry, a hybrid, is a popular landscape shrub.

### Preferences

**Light:** Full sun only.

**Water:** Fair drought tolerance.

**Soil:** Prefers loamy soils.

### Comments

Sandcherry is a suckering, spreading shrub that has a beautiful display of white flowers in spring. Fruits are larger than chokecherries and less astringent.

There are several cultivated varieties, including Hansen bush cherry and purpleleaf sandcherry (*Prunus x cistena*), a small tree.

Credits: Tree Selector Website, North Dakota Tree Handbook, [http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\\_plant=PRPUB](http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=PRPUB)



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[www.ag.ndsu.edu/tree-selector](http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/tree-selector)

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