

Manchurian Apricot



Manchurian Apricot (*Prunus armeniaca* *var. mandshurica*)

General Description

Small fast-growing tree. Rounded, spreading form, winter-hardy, and drought resistant. Native to Manchuria and Korea. Attractive white flowers, golden orange fall color and edible fruit. Early flowering makes fruit production susceptible to spring frost damage. The largest tree in North Dakota is 26 feet tall with a canopy spread of 32 feet.

Leaves and Buds

Bud Arrangement - Alternate.

Bud Color - Brownish.

Bud Size - Small.

Leaf Type and Shape - Simple, broad-ovate to broad-elliptic.

Leaf Margins - Sharply and doubly serrate, with narrow, elongated teeth.

Leaf Surface - Glossy, smooth above; axillary tufts of hairs, below.

Leaf Length - 2 to 4½ inches.

Leaf Width - 1½ to 3½ inches.

Leaf Color - Light green on both surfaces; yellow to orange fall color.

Flowers and Fruits

Flower Type - Solitary, about 1 inch across.

Flower Color - Varying from almost white to pink.

Fruit Type - Subglobose, peach-like drupe, can be eaten but is best suited for preserves.

Fruit Color - Fruits are yellow sometimes with a blush of red.

Form

Growth Habit - Spreading.

Texture - Medium, summer; medium, winter.

Crown Height - 10 to 15 feet.

Crown Width - 12 to 18 feet.

Bark Color - Reddish-brown to cinnamon-brown.

Root System - Medium in depth, and spread.

Environmental Requirements

Soils

Soil Texture - Grows best in loam soils.

Soil pH - 6.0 to 7.5.

Windbreak Suitability Group - 1, 3, 4, 4C, 5.

Cold Hardiness

USDA Zone 3.

Water

Moderately drought tolerant. Will not withstand ponding or saturated soils.

Light

Full sun.

Uses

Conservation/Windbreaks

Small tree for farmstead windbreaks.

Wildlife

Nesting site for songbirds. Rabbits and other rodents can cause serious injury during winter.

Agroforestry Products

Food - Used fresh, processed and dried.

Medicinal - A source of phloretin, an antibiotic. Used in cosmetics, soaps, and cold creams. Some *Prunus* species have been used for coughs, colds, gout and cancer research.

Urban/Recreational

Used as a specimen or as a screen. Fruits may be objectionable if used as a boulevard tree.

Cultivated Varieties

Mandan Apricot (*Prunus armeniaca var. mandshurica* 'Mandan') - Released by USDA, Northern Great Plains Research Station, Mandan, North Dakota. A cultivar seed strain.

Moongold/Sungold Apricot (*P. x* 'Moongold' and 'Sungold') - Released by University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Siberian Apricot (*P. armeniaca var. sibirica*)

Related Species

American Plum (*Prunus americana*)

Pests

No major pest problems. Extracts of *Prunus* species are toxic to some insect pests.