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.