East Bay Nursery

Minnie Royal Cherry

Prunus avium 'Minnie Royal'



Minnie Royal Cherry fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 20 feet

Spread: 15 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 7a

Other Names: Sweet Cherry, Mazzard Cherry

Description:

A highly desirable, low chill cultivar that is small and compact, ideal for home landscapes and backyard orchards, produces showy white flowers in spring, followed by sweet-tart red fruit; requires pollinator, pair with Royal Lee

Edible Qualities

Minnie Royal Cherry is a small tree that is typically grown for its edible qualities. It produces dark red round fruit (technically 'drupes') with red flesh which are usually ready for picking from late spring to early summer. Note that the fruits have hard inedible pits inside which must be removed before eating or processing. The fruits have a sweet taste and a firm texture.

The fruit are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Cooking
- Baking
- Preserves

Features & Attributes

Minnie Royal Cherry is clothed in stunning clusters of fragrant white flowers hanging below the branches from late winter to early spring, which emerge from distinctive shell pink flower buds before the leaves. It has dark green deciduous foliage. The serrated pointy leaves turn yellow in fall. The fruits are showy dark red drupes carried in abundance from mid to late spring. The fruit can be messy if allowed to drop on the lawn or walkways, and may require occasional clean-up.

This is a deciduous tree with a shapely oval form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition. This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Disease

Aside from its primary use as an edible, Minnie Royal Cherry is sutiable for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Orchard/Edible Landscaping

Planting & Growing

Minnie Royal Cherry will grow to be about 20 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 50 years or more. This variety requires a different selection of the same species growing nearby in order to set fruit.

This tree is typically grown in a designated area of the yard because of its mature size and spread. It should only be grown in full sunlight. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.