

Cherries, Plums, and Laurels

Genus Characteristics

Leaves: Leaves are simple and alternately arranged, sometimes appearing whorled. Leaves often have a serrated margin and acuminate tip. *Prunus* is a large and diverse genus with many cultivars on the market, resulting in a variety of leaf shapes and colors. Many *Prunus* are susceptible to shothole fungus, which presents as holes in leaves.



Prunus cerasifera 'Atropurpurea'



Prunus serrulata

Fruit: Fruit forms throughout the summer after flowering. Many nursery cultivars are bred to be fruitless, so fruits may not be visible on every tree. When fruit is present, it is a drupe (fleshy fruit surrounding a stone pit). Plums, nectarines, peaches, and cherries are all examples of *Prunus* fruit.



Prunus laurocerasus



Prunus cerasifera 'Atropurpurea'

Bark: Bark varies depending on species. Cherries tend to have visible lenticels and glossy bark that may or may not peel. Plums tend to have ropy bark that gives the tree a twisted appearance. Bark can be a great clue to species identification.



Prunus serrula



Prunus cerasifera

Form: Trees can be small to medium form. Laurels are usually maintained as shrubs; we will only inventory those maintained as trees. Form can vary depending on cultivar and grafting. Crown is usually round. Cherries and plums are often as wide as they are tall.



Prunus serrulata



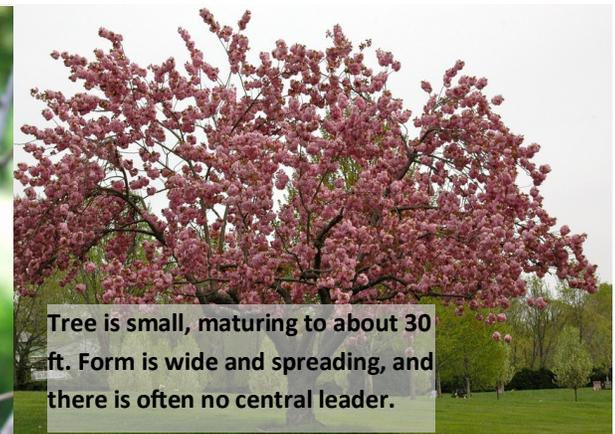
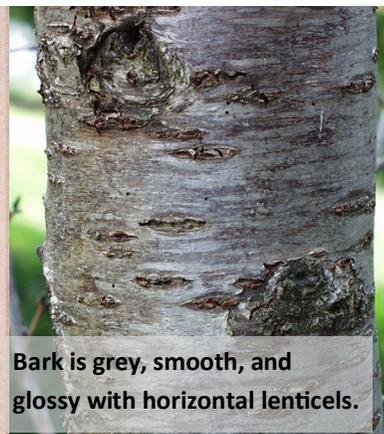
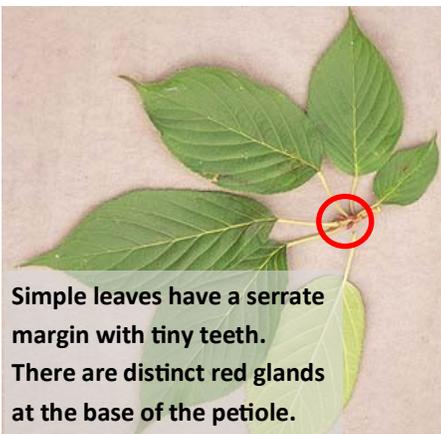
Prunus cerasifera

Cherries, Plums, and Laurels

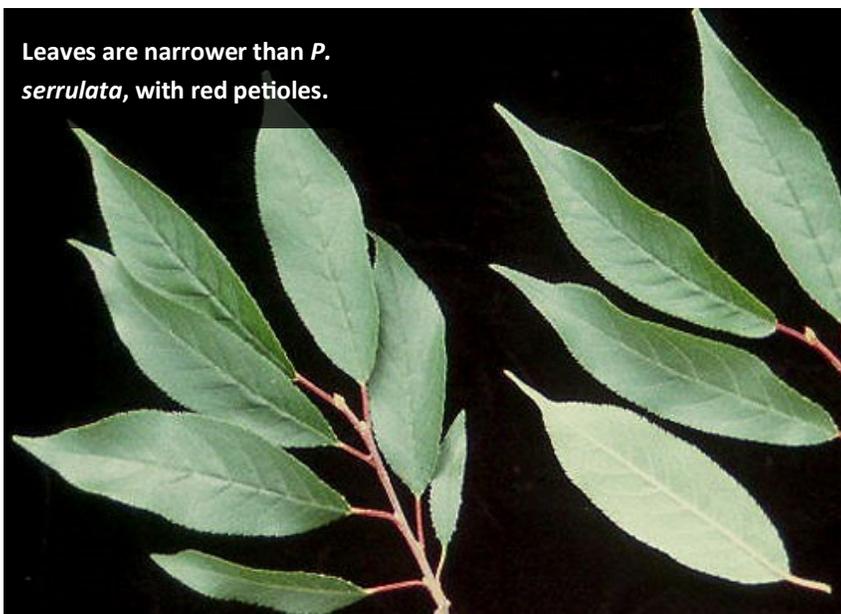
Prunus cerasifera—Purple flowering plum



Prunus serrulata—Japanese flowering cherry



Prunus serrula—Tibetan cherry, Paperbark cherry



***Prunus avium*—Sweet cherry**



***Prunus lusitanica*—Portuguese laurel**



P. lusitanica is usually a shrub but can be maintained as a tree. When maintained as a tree, it has a very round, broad form and dense branching. Only those maintained as trees will be inventoried.



***Prunus laurocerus*—English cherry laurel**

