Alderman Plum

Prunus 'Alderman'

Height: 20 feet

Spread: 20 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 4

Description:

A popular and hardy fruit tree with showy fragrant white flowers in spring and tasty red fruit in late summer, great for eating fresh; good habit for a fruit tree, quite ornamental; needs full sun, well-drained soil and a pollinator

Edible Qualities

Alderman Plum is a small tree that is typically grown for its edible qualities. It produces red oval fruit (technically 'drupes') with gold flesh which are usually ready for picking from late summer to early fall. 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 juicy texture.

The fruit are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Preserves
- Sauces

Features & Attributes

Alderman Plum is blanketed in stunning clusters of fragrant white flowers along the branches in early spring before the leaves. It has forest green deciduous foliage. The pointy leaves turn yellow in fall. The fruits are showy red drupes carried in abundance in late summer. The fruit can be messy if allowed to drop on the lawn or walkways, and may require occasional clean-up.



Alderman Plum fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Alderman Plum in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This is a deciduous tree with a more or less rounded 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. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Messy
- Disease

Aside from its primary use as an edible, Alderman Plum is sutiable for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Orchard/Edible Landscaping



Alderman Plum flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Alderman Plum will grow to be about 20 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 20 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 4 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 40 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 may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. 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 particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.