Mustang Plum-Apricot

Prunus 'Jefchum'

Height: 20 feet

Spread: 20 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 2

Description:

An exciting variety featuring showy white flowers in early spring followed by fruit in mid-summer; quite ornamental, needs full sun, well-drained soil; used primarily as a hardy rootstock; flowers can be damaged by late spring frosts

Edible Qualities

Mustang Plum-Apricot is a small tree that is typically grown for its edible qualities. It produces plum purple round fruit (technically 'drupes') with a yellow blush and gold flesh which are usually ready for picking in late 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 juicy texture.

The fruit are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Preserves

Features & Attributes

Mustang Plum-Apricot is smothered in stunning clusters of fragrant white flowers along the branches in early spring before the leaves. It has green deciduous foliage. The pointy leaves turn yellow in fall. The fruits are showy plum purple drupes with a yellow blush, which are 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.



Mustang Plum-Apricot fruit
Photo courtesy of Jeffries Nurseries



Mustang Plum-Apricot in bloom
Photo courtesy of Jeffries Nurseries

This is a deciduous tree with an upright spreading habit of growth. 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;

- Messy
- Disease

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

- Accent
- Orchard/Edible Landscaping

Planting & Growing

Mustang Plum-Apricot 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 3 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 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, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.