Sunrise Cornelian Cherry

Cornus mas 'Sunrise'



Sunrise Cornelian Cherry flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 15 feet

Spread: 8 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Description:

A versatile small tree for many landscape applications; features bright yellow flowers in very early spring before the leaves and sweet red berries in summer, good for fresh eating or preserves; neat habit of growth, but some suckering

Ornamental Features

Sunrise Cornelian Cherry is clothed in stunning clusters of yellow flowers along the branches from late winter to early spring before the leaves. It features an abundance of magnificent red berries from early to mid summer. The fruit can be messy if allowed to drop on the lawn or walkways, and may require occasional clean-up. It has dark green deciduous foliage. The pointy leaves do not develop any appreciable fall color. The peeling brown bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape.

This plant is primarily grown as an ornamental, but it's also valued for its edible qualities. The large oblong sweet fruit is most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Preserves

Landscape Attributes

Sunrise Cornelian Cherry is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub 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 is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. 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;

- Suckering

Sunrise Cornelian Cherry is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Sunrise Cornelian Cherry will grow to be about 15 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 8 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 40 years or more.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under average home landscape conditions. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.