Black Beauty Plum

Prunus 'Black Beauty'



Black Beauty Plum fruit and flesh
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 20 feet

Spread: 15 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 5

Other Names: Japanese Plum

Description:

This variety is a bearer of large, black fruit with sweet, firm white flesh; an upright spreading tree that is quite compact and ornamental; needs full sun and well-drained soil; self fertile

Edible Qualities

Black Beauty Plum is a small tree that is commonly grown for its edible qualities. It produces dark red round fruit (technically 'drupes') with powder blue overtones and white flesh which are usually ready for picking in mid summer. The fruit will often fade to black over time. 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
- Sauces

Features & Attributes

Black Beauty Plum is smothered 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 dark red drupes with powder blue overtones and which fade to black over time, which are carried in abundance from early to mid summer.

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. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Messy
- Disease

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

- Accent
- Shade
- Orchard/Edible Landscaping

Planting & Growing

Black Beauty Plum 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 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 is a self-pollinating variety, so it doesn't require a second plant nearby 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.