Methley Plum

Prunus salicina 'Methley'

Height: 20 feet

Spread: 15 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Japanese Plum

Description:

This variety bears medium to large, purplish-red fruit that are firm, juicy, and sweet; a vigorous, upright spreading ornamental tree; needs full sun, well-drained soil; self pollinating, but fruit production increases with cross-pollination

Edible Qualities

Methley Plum is a small tree that is typically grown for its edible qualities. It produces large crimson round fruit (technically 'drupes') with deep purple overtones and red flesh which are usually ready for picking from mid to 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
- Cooking
- Baking
- Preserves



Methley Plum fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Methley Plum fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Features & Attributes

Methley Plum is smothered in stunning clusters of fragrant white flowers along the branches in mid spring before the leaves. It has forest green deciduous foliage. The pointy leaves turn yellow in fall. The fruits are showy crimson drupes with deep purple overtones, which are carried in abundance from mid to late summer. The fruit can be messy if allowed to drop on the lawn or walkways, and may require occasional clean-up.

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, Methley Plum is sutiable for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade
- Orchard/Edible Landscaping

Planting & Growing

Methley 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 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 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. This plant should not require much in the way of fertilizing once established, although it may appreciate a shot of general-purpose fertilizer from time to time early in the growing season. 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 is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.