



Valentine Cherry

Prunus fruticosa x *cerasus* 'Valentine'
(Romance Series Dwarf Sour Cherry)

CARE REQUIREMENTS

Sun:

- Full Sun

Water:

- Moderate
- Keep evenly moist during establishment and fruiting

Mature Size:

- 6–8 ft tall
- 5–7 ft wide

Hardiness Zone:

- USDA Zones 2–7
- Excellent for Alaska

Growth Rate:

- Moderate to Fast

Bloom Time:

- Late Spring

Bloom Color:

- White to Soft Pink

Fruit Harvest:

- Mid to Late Summer

Fruit:

- Bright red cherries
- Tart-sweet flavor
- Excellent for fresh eating, juice, baking, preserves, and wine

PLANTING

Best Planting Conditions:

- Plant in full sun for strongest flowering and fruit production
- Prefers well-drained soil
- Tolerates many northern soil conditions
- Excellent for edible hedges, fruiting borders, and homestead orchards
- Avoid soggy or poorly drained locations

POLLINATION

Pollination:

- Self-pollinating
 - Fruits alone, but additional Romance Series cherries may improve production

ALASKA NOTES

Alaska-Specific Tips:

- Outstanding winter hardiness
- Bred specifically for prairie and northern climates
- Performs well in Alaska's short growing season
- Late bloom helps reduce frost damage
- Mulch young shrubs before winter
- Bird netting may be useful during harvest

PRUNING & MAINTENANCE

Pruning:

- Minimal pruning needed
- Remove dead, weak, or crossing branches in late winter or early spring
- Thin mature stems occasionally for airflow and better fruit production

Fertilizing:

- Compost or balanced fertilizer in spring
- Avoid excessive nitrogen, which can reduce fruiting

COMMON MISTAKES

- Planting in shade
- Poor drainage
- Overwatering mature shrubs
- Heavy pruning of fruiting branches
- Ignoring bird pressure near harvest

KEN'S TIPS

- **Valentine is an excellent choice if you want vibrant red fruit, reliable cold-climate performance, and a versatile cherry that shines both fresh and preserved.**