



Bing Cherry

Prunus avium 'Bing'

CARE REQUIREMENTS

Sun:

- Full Sun

Water:

- Moderate
- Consistent moisture is critical, especially during fruit **development**

Mature Size:

- 12–35 ft tall
- 12–25 ft wide

Hardiness Zone:

- USDA Zones 4–8
- Alaska in warmer microclimates or protected sites

Growth Rate:

- Moderate

Bloom Time:

- Mid to Late Spring

Bloom Color:

- White

Fruit Harvest:

- Mid to Late Summer

Fruit:

- Large, dark red to nearly black cherries
- Very sweet, rich flavor
- Excellent fresh eating, desserts, preserves, and baking

PLANTING

Best Planting Conditions:

- Plant in full sun with excellent air circulation
- Requires well-drained fertile soil
- Best in protected locations away from harsh wind
- South-facing, warmer microclimates are ideal in colder regions
- Avoid frost pockets and poorly drained soil

POLLINATION

Pollination:

- NOT self-pollinating
- Requires a compatible pollinator such as Rainier, Black Tartarian, or Van Cherry nearby

ALASKA NOTES

Alaska-Specific Tips:

- Best suited for Alaska's milder or protected zones
- Winter injury risk in colder interior areas
- Blossoms can be vulnerable to late frosts
- Wind protection is strongly recommended

PRUNING & MAINTENANCE

Pruning:

- Prune annually in late winter or summer
- Shape for airflow, sunlight penetration, and harvest ease
- Remove dead, diseased, or crossing branches

Fertilizing:

- Balanced fertilizer in spring
- Avoid excessive nitrogen, which may reduce fruit quality

COMMON MISTAKES

- Planting without pollinator variety
- Poor drainage
- Frost-prone planting sites
- Overwatering soggy soils
- Underestimating winter vulnerability

KEN'S TIPS

- **Bing Cherry is a premium classic, but Alaska success depends heavily on location — if you have a protected, sunny microclimate, it can be a stunning and rewarding showpiece.**