



Romeo Cherry

Prunus fruticosa x *cerasus* 'Romeo'
(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
- Exceptional for Alaska

Growth Rate:

- Moderate to Fast

Bloom Time:

- Late Spring

Bloom Color:

- White to Soft Pink

Fruit Harvest:

- Mid to Late Summer

Fruit:

- Dark red to burgundy cherries
- Sweet-tart flavor, often sweeter than traditional sour cherries
- Excellent fresh, baking, preserves, syrup, or wine

PLANTING

Best Planting Conditions:

- Plant in full sun for maximum flowering and fruit production
- Prefers well-drained soil
- Tolerates many soil types, including challenging northern conditions
- Excellent for edible hedges, fruit rows, and homestead gardens
- Avoid standing water or poorly drained areas

POLLINATION

Pollination:

- Self-pollinating
- Can fruit alone, but planting with Juliet or other Romance Series cherries may improve production

ALASKA NOTES

Alaska-Specific Tips:

- One of the best cherries for extreme cold climates
 - Romance Series was bred specifically for prairie and northern winters
 - Excellent winter survival
 - Late bloom helps reduce frost risk
 - Mulch young shrubs before winter
 - Bird netting may be useful during ripening

PRUNING & MAINTENANCE

Pruning:

- Minimal pruning required
- Remove dead, weak, or crossing branches in late winter or early spring
- Thin older stems occasionally for airflow and larger harvests

Fertilizing:

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

COMMON MISTAKES

- Planting in shade
- Poor drainage
- Overwatering mature plants
- Over-pruning fruiting branches
- Ignoring bird protection

KEN'S TIPS

- **Romeo often produces darker, richer fruit than Juliet and is an outstanding option if you want cold-climate cherries with deeper sweetness and bold flavor.**