

F2194 (July 2024)

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North Dakota Tree Selector

General

Scientific Name: *Prunus besseyi*

Family: Rosaceae (Rose)

Hardiness: Zone 3

Leaves: Deciduous

Plant Type: Shrub

Growth

Rate: Medium

Mature Height: 4-7'

Longevity: Medium

Power Line: Yes

Ornamental

Flowers: White

Fruit: Purple to black berries

Fall Color: Yellow

Western Sandcherry

Description

A small, winter-hardy, relatively short-lived shrub native to the northern Great Plains. Edible fruits which are dark purple to black. Purpleleaf sandcherry, a hybrid, is a popular landscape shrub.

Preferences

Light: Full sun only.

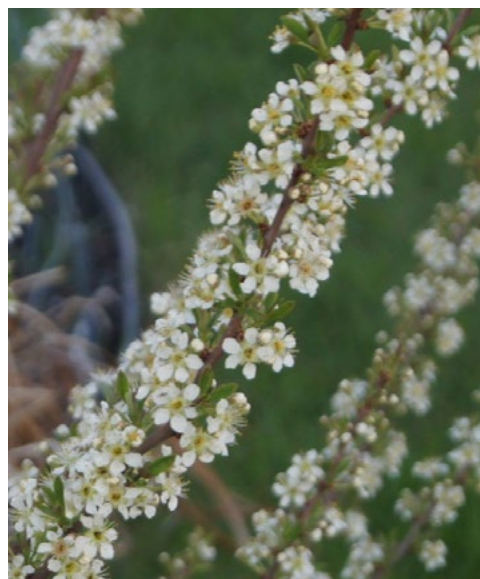
Water: Fair drought tolerance.

Soil: Prefers loamy soils.

Comments

Sandcherry is a suckering, spreading shrub that has a beautiful display of white flowers in spring. Fruits are larger than chokecherries and less astringent.

There are several cultivated varieties, including Hansen bush cherry and purpleleaf sandcherry (*Prunus x cistena*), a small tree.



Credits: Tree Selector Website, North Dakota Tree Handbook, http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=PRPUB