Cherrylaurel
(*Prunus laurocerasus* `Otto Luyken')

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**Summary:**
- Foliage: Evergreen broadleaf
- Height: 4 feet
- Spread: 8 feet
- Shape: Spreading

The species (*Prunus laurocerasus*) is generally not sold in the U.S. Cultivars of cherrylaurel are low-growing with handsome glossy foliage and white flowers in spring. This species tolerates shade and is used as a border, hedge, and in mass.

**Plant Needs:**
- Zone: 6b (6a) to 9
- Light: Full to partial shade to full sun
- Moisture: Moist to dry
- Soil Type: Sandy, loam, or clay loam
- pH Range: 3.7 to 7.3

**Functions:**
- Suggested uses for this plant include hedge and massing.

**Planting Notes:**
- Adapts well to sun or shade. Plant in well drained soils!
- Salt tolerant.

**Care:**
- Tolerates heavy pruning and shearing.

**Problems:**
- More disease and insect resistant than other *Prunus* species.
- Root rot can be a problem if planted in a wet or poorly drained location.

**Alternatives:**
- Consult local garden centers historic or public gardens and arboreta regarding cultivars and related species that grow well in your area.
- Cultivars of *Prunus laurocerasus*:
  - ‘Otto Luyken’ has a distinct horizontal growth habit and is one of the most cold hardy cultivars.
  - ‘Schipkaensis’ (Schipka Cherrylaurel) is a low-growing (5 feet tall) and wide spreading cultivar that is harder (zone 5) than other cultivars.
  - ‘Zabeliana’ grows to 5 feet tall and is quite wide spreading.
  - Generally cherrylaurel cultivars are sold in the nursery trade since the species is a large shrub/small tree.

**Comments:**
- This is a relatively slow-growing, wide-spreading shrub that forms a handsome hedge; it can also be used as a background for other smaller plants.
- Cherrylaurel is a good plant to use near the ocean because of its tolerance to salt spray.

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