

Cherrylaurel (*Prunus laurocerasus* 'Otto Luyken')

Alex X. Niemiera, Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture

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 hardier (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 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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