



Asian Plum



Asian plums at Overbrook School of the Blind (POP).

Latin Name: *Prunus spp*

Recommended Cultivars: Santa Rosa, Shiro, Satsuma

Native region: Japan, China, Korea

Growing Zones: 3-8

Mature Size: Depending on the rootstock, dwarf trees grow 8-10', semi-dwarf 10-15', standards 18+

Pruning Tree Form: Open Center

Pollination Requirements: Partially (heavier fruit set with 2nd)

Light Requirements: Full Sun

Harvest Window: July-Aug, depending on variety

Maintenance Level: Moderate

Common Pest and Disease Issues: Bacterial Canker, Brown Rot, Blank Knot, Aphids, Plum Curculio, Oriental Fruit Moth, Japanese Beetle, Stink Bug, Codling Moth, American Plum Borer, Bacterial Spot, Plum Leaf Scald, Plum Pocket, Plum Pox

Tree Care and Harvest



WATERING: Water twice a week for the first month, and once a week until dormant for the remainder of the year after planting. Aim for 7-10 gallons of water per week, per tree.



WINTER: Annual [winter pruning](#) is necessary during the plant's dormant period. Asian plums bloom very early, sometimes threatened by frost which can cause you to lose the year's crop.



SPRING Support tree with biweekly feedings (spray or root drench) of compost tea or EM-1. Scout for black knot, oriental fruit moth, and plum curculio. Thin fruit to 5" apart in May/June, removing all infected fruits. Pick up all dropped fruits.



SUMMER: Monitor trees weekly, especially in humid or wet climates. Pick up all dropped fruits. Prune out black knot 6"-12" below any signs of it. Keep 3' ring around tree weeded and mulched.



FALL: Late fall compost application. Continue picking up dropped fruits. Spray beneficial nematodes to help manage plum curculio larvae in the soil.



Harvest: Asian plums are ripe in June and July. When ripe they have a dusky bloom on the skin, and will fall easily off the tree with a gentle twist. You can harvest plums slightly earlier while still firm and allow to ripen indoors at temps between 60-80 F or keep in cold storage (32-40 F) in perforated plastic bags. Early harvests yield less sweet fruit.