

Methley Plum Tree



The juicy, deep red fruit of the Methley is harvested in late June to early July, and is delicious... eaten freshly picked or make into pre-serves.

Prunus salicina 'Methley'

- **Use:** A cultivar of Japanese plum, Methley is a small, upright, spreading tree. Japanese plum trees have a rougher bark and more persistent spurs than European plums. They are more vigorous, disease resistant, and produce more flowers. They tolerate heat and need only a short period of winter dormancy. The early bloom time makes them susceptible to late spring frosts. The foliage is bright green.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Full to part sun. Soil should be well-drained. Acidic soil is preferred, though it can tolerate a wide variety of soils. They are not drought-tolerant, so proper watering is a must.
- **Growth:** Grows 20-25 tall and wide. Plums require minimal pruning which should be done after flowering when the tree is still leafless. In the formative years, pruning can be to remove interior branches, water sprouts, growing scaffold branches, and dead, damaged, or diseased wood. In maturity, vigorous upright shoots are removed as fruiting increasingly occurs on spurs on older wood. Japanese plums do best when trained to an open center and need thinning for proper fruit development.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 5-9; Tree
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. Dark green leaves.
- **Flower:** The white flowers are borne mostly in umbel-like clusters of 2-3 on short spurs, and solitary or 2-3 in axils of 1-yr-old wood. Blooms appear as early as February covered in snow. Produces heavy, annual crops of juicy, sweet, red purple fruit that ripens from late May to early July. One crop requires several pickings. Japanese plums can be picked before they are completely ripe, since they will finish ripening off the tree. Self fertile and serves as a good pollinator for early bearing Japanese varieties.

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