

***Prunus Avium*, Sweet Cherry**

General Botanical Characteristics

Prunus Avium is a deciduous tree with reddish brown wood. Its leaves are alternate, simple, toothed on the margin, and have two 2 small glands at the base of the blade. The fruit is fleshy, yellow or red, and has a large pit.



Seasonal Development

The flower is white. There are 3 to 5 per cluster and they appear from April to May. The fruit matures in June and July. It is sweet, dark red, and up to 1 inch across.

Distribution/Habitat

Sweet Cherry prefers non-acid rich soils. It is found in woods and hedgerows.



Interesting Facts

- The poisonous parts of the plant are the wilted leaves, stems, and seeds.
- The poisonous parts are highly toxic and if eaten, may be fatal.
- The edible parts of the plant are the fruit which can be eaten raw or cooked.

References

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/poison/Prunuav.htm>

<http://linnaeus.nrm.se/flora/di/rosa/prunu/prunavi5.jpg>

<http://www.rfs.org.uk/>

Photo from <http://www.first-nature.com>