**Prunus serrulata** J. Lindley

(Japanese Flowering Cherry, Cerasus lannesiana, Cerasus leveilleana, Cerasus serrulata, Prunus jamasakura, Prunus lannesiana, Prunus leveilleana, Prunus tenuiflora)

- *Prunus serrulata* is also known as Hill Cherry, Japanese Cherry, Japanese Mountain Cherry, Korean Mountain Cherry, or Oriental Cherry; Sato Zakura is the Japanese name for this species; the species type is a medium to large tree, 50’ to 70’ tall, in its native China, Korea, and Japan with a variable vase-shaped to upright oval crown, however the species type is seldom encountered in the U.S. nursery trade, with the various cultivars offered instead; masses of single or double pink, or less commonly white, early spring flowers are the primary asset of this species; the small blue-black cherries are seldom produced in southern climates; cultivars are usually grafted on another species such as *P. avium* as standards; the lack of heat tolerance in the rootstock probably adds to the difficulties this species experiences in our heat and low chilling conditions; most of the selected cultivars are smaller than the species type, maturing in the 20’ to 30’ range; most genotypes are cold tolerant to USDA hardiness zone 5, but suffer in the heat of zones 7 and warmer, particularly in our region where summers can be brutal; it would be interesting to see if grafting cultivars onto rootstocks from species with more heat tolerance could improve performance; the specific epithet refers to the small saw tooth leaf margins.

- 'Kwanzan' ('Kanzan', 'Sekiyama'), Kwanzan Cherry, is the most frequently encountered cultivar of this species in the U.S. nursery trade; it forms a vase-shaped crown usually grafted atop a standard at chest to head high and is covered in a cloud of double rosy pink carnation-like clusters of 1” to 1½” diameter spring flowers; in northern areas this cultivar matures as a medium size tree, but is usually a small tree in zone 7 or south if it survives; reasonably durable in cooler climates, it is prone to borer infestations and inadequate chilling in warmer climates.

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