

About Cherries

Cherries are distinguished from other trees by having clusters of buds at the ends of the twigs (only oak also has this feature) and usually there is a smooth bark with more or less regularly placed rougher lines running part or all the way around the trunk.

These are the lenticels, loose corky areas that allow gasses into and out of the trunk.

In the summer some also have cherries, of course, and many have superb autumn colours!

The Flowers

Cherry flowers can have between 5 and 300 petals and can be divided into 4 groups depending on the number of petals.

Single flowers have just 5 petals, though there may be a couple of extra ones in some cases.

Semi-double flowers have between 10 and 20 petals.

Double flowers have from 25 to 50 petals.

Chrysanthemum flowers have more than 100 petals.

However, there can be great variation in the number of petals, even on the same tree.

The colour of petals too is very variable with the colour of the same flower changing from first emergence, through maturity, to blossom fall.

The weather conditions can also affect the colour. All cherry flowers are darker in bud, becoming paler or lighter as they expand.



Single



Semi-double



Double



Chrysanthemum

Our Flowering Cherries

The University holds more than 240 varieties of flowering cherry and was bestowed with the award of National Collection by Plant Heritage in 2012. While many of the trees are still young, the collection builds upon the long history of cherries on the campus using the expertise of Chris Sanders VMH, a noted plantsman and expert on flowering cherries.

It has been partly funded by Plant Heritage but primarily by generous donations of alumni in memory of Jon Ivinston, and by Philip Davies and his family. In addition to these cherries, we have a number of mature cherries from earlier plantings.

Rather than being all in one place, the cherries have been scattered around the campus. The map overleaf should help you locate the main plantings, while a PDF of all the cherries we have with their locations can be found by scanning the QR code.



Japanese Cherry Names

Many names have highly involved histories. The pride of our collection are the Matsumae cherries raised more than 50 years ago around Matsumae Town, Hokkaido by Masatoshi Asari. Many names are prefixed by 'Matsumae-'.

Japanese cherry names can be purely descriptive; some phrases occur repeatedly. Some of the commonest are:

beni (pink); **hana** (flower); **nioi** (scented); **kiku** (chrysanthemum-flowered); **shidare** (weeping); **yae** (double flowered); **zakura** (cherry).

The collection is liable to change as new trees are planted and others, unfortunately, die and have to be replaced. Further up-to-date details about the collection with photographs of most of the cherries are available here keele.ac.uk/cherries

If you have any queries please email arboretum.cherries@keele.ac.uk



The National Collection of Flowering Cherries



