



Prunus triloba var. *multiplex* Flowering-Almond¹

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INTRODUCTION

Reaching a height of 12 feet with an equal spread, Flowering-Almond has beautiful, double pink flowers which appear in midspring (Fig. 1). It provides a wonderful accent in a residential yard or courtyard when in flower. Be sure to locate it in a groundcover or mulched bed, as mechanical injury or stress of any kind hasten the demise of this short-lived tree. It is also very suitable in a shrub border as a tall accent. It can be sculptured nicely into a unique form with proper pruning and training and is well suited for container gardening. Regular pruning is needed for best flowering performance. Branches cut in early spring can be forced into bloom indoors.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific name: *Prunus triloba* var. *multiplex*

Pronunciation: PROO-nus try-LOW-buh variety
MULL-tih-plecks

Common name(s): Flowering-Almond,
Double-Flowering Plum

Family: *Rosaceae*

USDA hardiness zones: 3B through 6 (Fig. 2)

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: Bonsai; container or above-ground planter; recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; near a deck or patio; trainable as a standard; specimen; no proven urban tolerance

Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

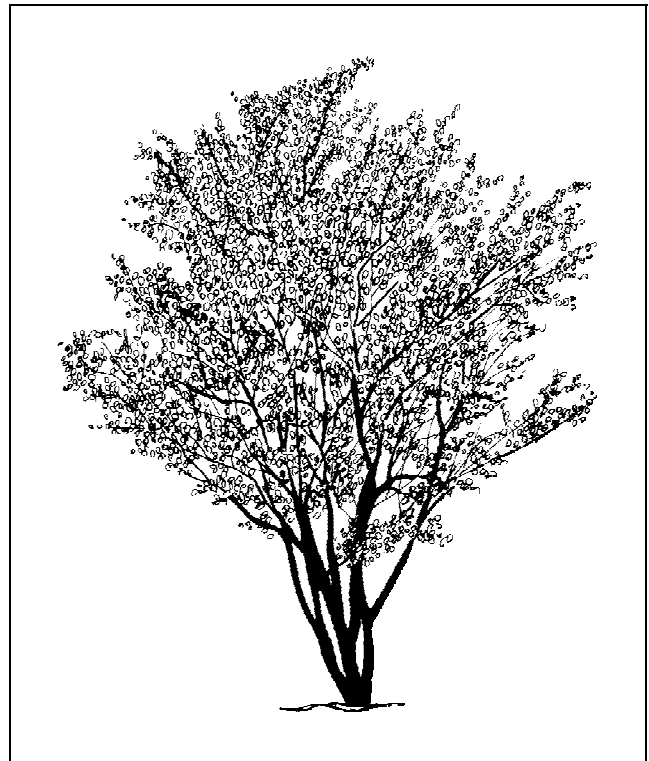


Figure 1. Young Flowering-Almond.

DESCRIPTION

Height: 10 to 15 feet

Spread: 10 to 15 feet

Crown uniformity: symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more or less identical crown forms

Crown shape: round; vase shape

Crown density: moderate

Growth rate: medium

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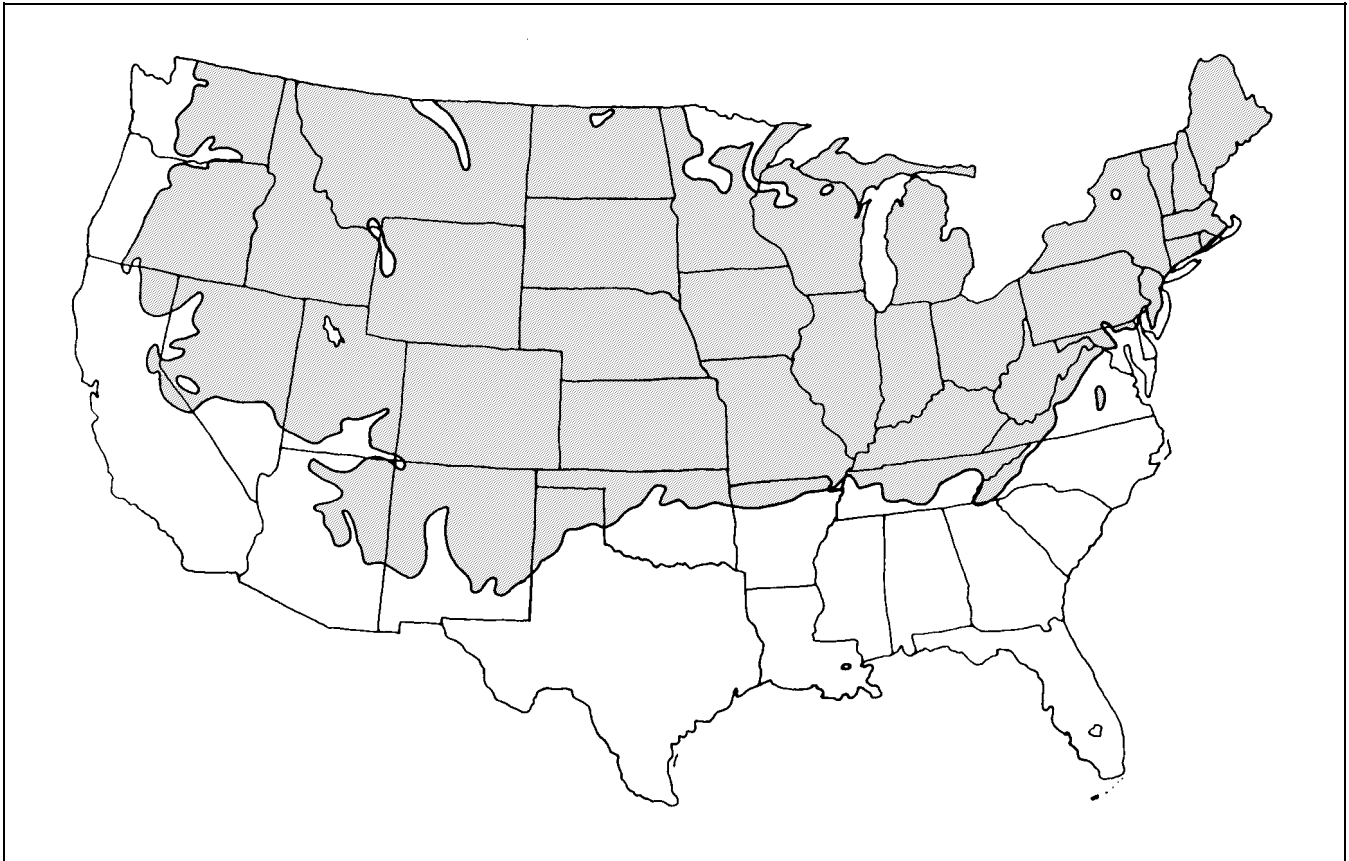


Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate (Fig. 3)

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: dentate; double serrate; serrate

Leaf shape: elliptic (oval); obovate

Leaf venation: pinnate; reticulate

Leaf type and persistence: deciduous

Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches; less than 2 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: copper; yellow

Fall characteristic: showy

Flower

Flower color: pink

Flower characteristics: spring flowering; very showy

Fruit

Fruit shape: round

Fruit length: .5 to 1 inch

Fruit covering: fleshy

Fruit color: red

Fruit characteristics: attracts squirrels and other mammals; inconspicuous and not showy; no significant litter problem

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: droop as the tree grows, and will require pruning for vehicular or pedestrian clearance beneath the canopy; routinely grown with, or trainable to be grown with, multiple trunks; not particularly showy; no thorns

Pruning requirement: needs little pruning to develop a strong structure

Breakage: resistant

Current year twig color: brown

Current year twig thickness: thin

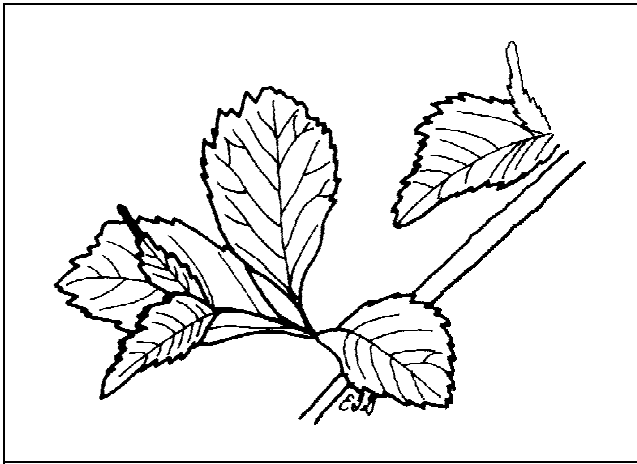


Figure 3. Foliage of Flowering-Almond.

Culture

Light requirement: tree grows in part shade/part sun;
tree grows in full sun

Soil tolerances: clay; loam; sand; acidic;
well-drained

Drought tolerance: moderate

Aerosol salt tolerance: none

Other

Roots: surface roots are usually not a problem

Winter interest: no special winter interest

Outstanding tree: tree has outstanding ornamental
features and could be planted more

Invasive potential: little, if any, potential at this time

Ozone sensitivity: sensitive or moderately tolerant

Verticillium wilt susceptibility: susceptible

Pest resistance: very sensitive to one or more pests
or diseases which can affect tree health or aesthetics

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Flowering-Almond grows best in sun or partial shade on rich, moist soil. Keep turf grass cleared away from a four to six-foot diameter circle around the tree. It transplants well and grows at a moderate pace.

'Plena' has double flowers; var. *simplex* has single flowers sometimes followed by red fruit.

Pests

Aphids cause distortion of new growth, deposits of honeydew, and sooty mold.

Borers attack trees under stress. Keep trees healthy with regular fertilizer applications and irrigation in drought.

Scales of several types infest *Prunus* spp. Horticultural oil can be used to help control overwintering stages.

Spider mites cause yellowing or stippling but are very difficult to see. They are usually recognized only after plant symptoms are quite advanced.

Tent caterpillars make large webbed nests in trees then eat the foliage. One defoliation may not be serious and small nests can be pruned out and destroyed. Use *Bacillus thuringiensis* when the insects are first seen and are still small.

Diseases

A bacterium causes leaf spot and twig cankers on cherry. Small, reddish spots dry, and drop out, giving a shot holed appearance. Defoliation can be severe when conditions favor disease development. Fertilize infected trees and prune out infected branches.

A fungus causes reddish spots which drop out leaving shot holes. Once the hole appear the leaves may drop. The disease is worse in wet weather.

Black knot causes black swellings or galls on the branches. Branches with galls are pruned out.

Powdery mildew causes a white coating on the leaves.