



Prunus 'Helen Taft'



Botanical Name:

Prunus 'Helen Taft'
(NA 61128; PI 664076)

Hardiness:

USDA Zones 6-8.

Development:

'Helen Taft' resulted from a controlled hybridization made in 1981 between *P. ×yedoensis* (Yoshino cherry) and *P. campanulata* (Taiwan cherry). The seed parent came from a cutting of an original Tidal Basin tree that was planted in 1912 during a ceremony by the Japanese Ambassador's wife, Viscountess Iwa Chinda, and First Lady Helen Herron Taft.

Significance:

'Helen Taft' was released in 2012 in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the planting of the cherry trees around the Tidal Basin in Washington, D.C. The name recognizes the role that former First Lady Helen Taft played in this historic planting

Description:

Height and width: 35 feet tall and wide in 30 years.

Habit: Upright tree with a spreading crown.

Foliage: Medium green, turning pale yellow to red in the fall.

Flowers: Abundant, large, pale pink single flowers that turn darker in the centers as the flowers mature. Blooms just before *P. ×yedoensis*

Propagation:

Semi-hardwood cuttings root in 4-6 weeks under mist with 1000-3000 ppm IBA in talc.

Landscape Use:

Small shade tree or specimen plant, street tree in residential or highway plantings, or a spring accent plant in larger residential, park, and commercial landscapes.

Availability:

Limited availability. Propagating nurseries can obtain cuttings or budwood by contacting Dr. Margaret Pooler, U.S. National Arboretum, 10300 Baltimore Ave., Bldg. 010A, Beltsville, MD 20705. Margaret.Pooler@ars.usda.gov