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Prunus hortulana

[Synonyms : *Prunus hortulana* var. *mineri*, *Prunus hortulana* var. *waylandii*, *Prunus munsoniana*]

WILD GOOSE PLUM is a deciduous tree. Native to south-eastern and central United States it has small, white flowers before the leaves.

It is also known as Hog plum, Hortulana plum, Hortulan plum, and Wild plum.

Hortulana is derived from Latin *hortus* (garden) meaning ‘of or from gardens’.

It is told how a Tennessee hunter either shot down a goose and found the tree’s seed in the bird’s crop or that the tree sprang up the following Spring from the spot where the bird fell when he shot it – and this led to the name Wild goose plum.

The tree is cultivated locally for its small usually white-dotted, bright-red or yellowish-red fruit which are made into preserves and marmalade, as well as wine (the latter drunk particularly with game).