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Prunus lyonii

[Synonyms : *Cerasus lyonii*, *Prunus ilicifolia* subsp. *lyonii*, *Prunus ilicifolia occidentalis*, *Prunus integrifolia*]

CATALINA CHERRY is an evergreen shrub or tree. Native to California (United States) it has tiny white flowers.

It is also known as Catalina Island cherry.

Lyonii commemorates the name of William Scrugham Lyon (1851-1916) an American plant collector, rancher and nurseryman. Born in New York, he then lived in California from 1871-1902 and for the last twenty of those years was involved with plants, primarily collecting, cultivating and writing about them and successfully running Occidental Nurseries (which eventually changed its name to Elysian Gardens). From about 1893 he specialised in cacti and succulents. In 1902 he moved to Manila and joined the Philippines' Bureau of Agriculture as an 'expert in tropical horticulture' and 'in charge of Division of Plant Industry' and introduced many fruit trees there. Eventually he left the Bureau and then established another nursery where until his death he concentrated on tropical orchids.

According to records the North American Gabrielino Indians harvested the small nearly black berries, cracked open the fruit stones and ate the meat in them (kernel/seed).

Birds enjoy the fruit.