

Prunus salicina

[Synonyms : *Prunus botan*, *Prunus ichangana*, *Prunus thibetica*, *Prunus triflora*]

JAPANESE PLUM is a tree. Native to China, Korea and Japan it has fragrant white flowers. It is also known as *Ameixa japonesa* (Portuguese), *Ameixeira japonesa* (Portuguese), *Chato* (Korean), Chinese plum, *Chinesischer Pflaumenbaum* (German), *Ciliegia del Giappone* (Italian), *Cirolero japonés* (Spanish), *Dreibluetige Pflaume* (German), *Ijas jepang* (Malaysian), *Japaninluumu* (Finnish), *Japanischer Pflaumenbaum* (German), *Japanse pruim* (Dutch), *Japansk blomme* (Danish), *Kaspruim* (Dutch), *Kinesiskplommon* (Swedish), *Li* (Chinese), *Li zi* (Chinese), *Mân 'luang* (Lao), Peach plum, *Prugna del Giappone* (Italian), *Prun* (Vietnamese), *Prune du Japon* (French), *Prunier japonais* (French), *Ri ben li* (Chinese), *Sumomo* (Japanese), *Susino giapponese* (Italian), and *Tsi keu* (Lao).

Salicina is derived from the genus name *Salix* meaning 'like plants in that (willow) genus'. The small occasionally green, sometimes violet, yellow or red fruit are eaten raw or cooked in pies, made into preserves or dried.

This tree was introduced to North America in 1870.

Japanese plum is cultivated for its fruit in China and Japan, as well as in India and California in the south-western United States.

According to south-eastern Asian specialists the tree is valued in this region primarily for its fruit.

Medicinally, herbalists in Indio-China (the south-east Asian peninsular of China) have turned to the fruit for remedies for treating arthritis. Some records indicate that it has also been recommended for allaying thirst.