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*Prunus subcordata*

[Synonyms : *Prunus subcordata* var. *kelloggii*]

**SIERRA CHERRY** is a shrub or tree. Native to south-western North America it has small, white fading to deep pink flowers.

It is also known as American plum, California plum, Klamath plum, Oregon plum, Pacific plum, Western plum, and Western wild plum.

*Subcordata* is derived from Latin *sub-* (somewhat, almost, rather, slightly, partially, under, etc.) and *cordis* (heart) components meaning ‘slightly heart-shaped’.

Several North American Indian tribes including the Modesse, Klamath, Mendocino Indian and Winton ate the fresh (occasionally yellow) dark-red fruit. The Klamath, Mendocino Indian and Atsugewi tribes all dried them for storage and Winter food.

Authorities note that when sierra cherry is growing to the north of its range it tends to be more palatable and the small bloomy fruit are then prized for eating raw or cooked (for instance, in pies), or for making jam and other preserves.