

Cherry tree

Prunus avium

QUICK FACTS

USDA ZONES

4–9

SUNLIGHT

Full Sun

HEIGHT

20–35 ft

POLLINATORS

Yes

AT A GLANCE

For most eastern home orchards, sour cherries are the more practical choice. They are self-fruitful, smaller, more disease tolerant, and less prone to fruit cracking. Sweet cherries in zones 5-7 east of the Rockies require bird netting, a careful spray program, and a pollinator variety. Both types are worth growing if you have the space and commitment.

PLANTING CHECKLIST

- Match site to sun requirements above before buying
- Test soil drainage — dig a 12" hole, fill with water, time it (should drain in 1–2 hrs)
- Dig hole 2x wider than rootball, same depth
- Backfill with native soil — do NOT amend the planting hole
- Water deeply at planting and weekly for first 3 weeks
- Mulch 2" deep, keep mulch 2" away from trunk/stems

FULL GUIDE WITH SOURCES

<https://outdoorplantcare.com/plants/cherry-tree-care/>