

Kwanzan Flowering Cherry

Prunus serrulata Kwanzan

Prunus Kanzan, known as Japanese Flowering Cherry. The cherry blossom is sometimes unofficially dubbed Japan's national flower and rooted deep in Japanese culture. They used cherry blossom to forecast how the crops would do in the coming year. Flowering cherry trees are beautiful and often fragrant. The Kwanzan cherry tree's name comes from a mountain in Japan.

The Kwanzan cherry tree, often used as ornamental plant has a medium growth rate. It reaches about 20 feet tall with a 20 foot branch spread when it's matured. It is vase-shaped with a spreading crown. The cherry tree has stout reddish brown twigs. The buds are also large and reddish brown. The bark is thin and smooth, and ranges in color from red to bronze. It is glossy with prominent horizontal lenticels or pores.

Deep pink double flowers (to 2.5" diameter) each with 20-30 petals, bloom in pendant clusters of 2-5" in April. Flowers bloom just before and as the leaves emerge. Ovate, serrate dark green leaves (to 5" long). New leaves may be tinged with bronze-red. Fall color is yellow to orange-bronze. Double flowered Japanese Flowering cherry tree is noted for its profuse and showy spring bloom. Kwanzan variety is very sterile, so typically has no fruit, although the *Prunus serrulata* species does grow a small red cherry. Due to the lack of fruit, the tree doesn't attract wildlife.

You can locate this tree outside of the Sexton's office at The Salt Lake City Cemetery.

