



Welcome to my weekly series!

Linda K. Lillie of Sprigs & Twigs

ask the landscape professional

SEND ME YOUR QUESTIONS ... I will do my best to address the ones of most general interest. **Email or mail your questions to: info@sprigsandtwigs.net or Linda Lillie, Sprigs & Twigs Inc, PO Box 245, Gales Ferry, CT 06335**

Linda's Question of this Week:

We just returned from the Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington D.C. and we would love to plant a cherry tree in our yard! Are there any native flowering cherry trees we can plant?

Linda's Answer:

Unfortunately, the cherry trees planted in Washington D.C. are not native to this area. In 1912, 3,020 trees were brought over as a gift from Mayor Yukio Ozaki and the People of Japan to the People of the United States. The gifted trees originally included 12 different species but now 'Yoshino' (*Prunus serrulata* 'Yoshino') and 'Kwanzan' (*Prunus serrulata* 'Kwanzan') are now the dominant species. Neither of these species are native, but the 'Yoshino' variety can be planted in our area.

If you're looking for something native that will give you a beautiful spring bloom, try one of these trees:



◀ **Cercis Canadensis – Red Bud**

There are (2) native varieties of this tree: Straight *Cercis canadensis* and 'Forest Pansy'. The difference? 'Forest Pansy' has a rose/purple flower with burgundy foliage. The straight variety has a green foliage and white flower as well as comes in a clump-form. Both bloom in May and are 20-25' tall and 25-30' wide when mature.



Prunus maritima – Beach Plum ▶

6-7' tall and 6-7' wide when mature, the white flowers bloom in May. It has an edible fruit with a loose, upright habit.



◀ **Magnolia virginiana – Sweetbay Magnolia**

30-35' tall and 30-35' wide when mature. Although this magnolia isn't a springtime bloomer (it blooms from June-August), it's fragrant, creamy, white flowers and attraction to birds is worth the wait! Also tolerates shade and wet soils.

Cornus florida – Flowering Dogwood ▶

Depending on the variety, the size can range from 15-30' Tall and 10-35' wide. Flowers bloom from early April to mid-May and range in color from whites to reds. Attracts birds with its berries and has nice fall foliage.



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Linda K. Lillie is the President of Sprigs & Twigs, Inc, the premier landscape tree care & lawn care company in SE Connecticut for the last 18 years. She is a graduate of Connecticut College in Botany, a Connecticut Master Gardener and a national award winning landscape designer for her design and installation work.

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