

Notice of Release of
'Catskill' Dwarf sand Cherry (Prunus pumila var. depressa)

For Conservation Plantings

By

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Ecological Science Division

Washington, DC

and

Pennsylvania state

Game Commission

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

The US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), and the Pennsylvania State Game Commission announce the release of Catskill sand cherry, Prunus pumila var. depressa (Pursh) Gleason.

'Catskill' was selected at the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Plant Materials Center, Big Flats, New York.

'Catskill', PI # 591700, is a population derived from seed collected from over 16 plants along the Delaware River, Town of Fremont, Sullivan County, New York. A seed orchard was established at the Big Flats Plant Materials Center from this seed.

Sand cherry is a native deciduous shrub with a prostrate growth habit. It attains a height of less than 3 feet and will spread over 6 feet across. It has new shoots which are dark reddish in color and shiny, often having adventitious roots forming along their length as they contact the ground. The primary root system creates a massive root structure that is out of proportion with the top growth of the plant. This massive root system allows sand cherry to tolerate drought conditions. It is found from the Gaspé Peninsula to Ontario, south to the New York-Pennsylvania border. This cherry prefers calcareous soils.

The principle use for 'Catskill' sand cherry is in streambank and shoreline protection, in sandy and gravelly areas, where short vegetation is needed. The prostrate growth habit could make this species adapted to areas with ice flow problems. The attractive, neat appearance of the groundcover should make this plant desirable for use in urban, low maintenance, droughty landscapes.

A breeders seed production block will be maintained by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Big Flats, Plant Materials Center, Box 360A, RD#1, Rt.352, Corning New York 14830. One year old seedlings are available to commercial and state nurseries for the purpose of establishing seed orchards. Propagation procedures will be provided to those receiving plants.