Homestead Gardens Plant Finder

Davidsonville, MD | Severna Park, MD | Smyrna, MD
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Stanley Plum

Prunus 'Stanley'



Stanley Plum fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 20 feet

Spread: 20 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 5a

Description:

A common commercial fruit tree with showy fragrant white flowers in spring followed by large blue fruit in late summer, considered by many to be the best prune plum; ornamental habit for a fruit tree; needs full sun, well-drained soil and a pollinator

Edible Qualities

Stanley Plum is a small tree that is commonly grown for its edible qualities. It produces violet round fruit (technically 'drupes') with silvery blue overtones and gold flesh which are usually ready for picking in early fall. Note that the fruits have hard inedible pits inside which must be removed before eating or processing. The fruits have a sweet taste and a juicy texture.

The fruit are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Cooking
- Baking
- Preserves

Features & Attributes

Stanley Plum is clothed in stunning clusters of fragrant white flowers along the branches in early spring before the leaves. It has forest green deciduous foliage. The pointy leaves turn yellow in fall. The fruits are showy violet drupes with silvery blue overtones, which are carried in abundance in early fall. The fruit can be messy if allowed to drop on the lawn or walkways, and may require occasional clean-up.

This is a deciduous tree with a more or less rounded form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition. This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Messy
- Disease

Aside from its primary use as an edible, Stanley Plum is sutiable for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Orchard/Edible Landscaping

Planting & Growing

Stanley Plum will grow to be about 20 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 20 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 4 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more. This variety requires a different selection of the same species growing nearby in order to set fruit.

This tree is typically grown in a designated area of the yard because of its mature size and spread. It should only be grown in full sunlight. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.