Plant Propagation Protocol for *Prunus serotina*

ESRM 412 – Native Plant Production

Protocol URL: https://courses.washington.edu/esrm412/protocols/**PRSE2**.pdf

TAXONOMY		
Plant Family		
Scientific Name	Rosaceae	
Common Name	Rose Family	
Species Scientific Name		
Scientific Name	Prunus serotina Ehrh.	
Varieties	Prunus serotina ssp. capuli; Prunus serotina var. eximia; Prunus serotina var. rufula; Prunus serotina var. serotina; Prunus serotina var. virens¹	
Sub-species	None.	
Cultivar		
Common Synonym(s)	Cerasus capollin Ser. ex DC.; Cerasus longifolius Nutt. ex Torr. & A. Gray; Cerasus serotina (Ehrh.) Loisel.; Padus serotina (Ehrh.) Borkh.; Prunus salicifolia Kunth ⁵	
Common Name(s)	Black Cherry, Mountain Black Cherry, Wild Black Cherry, Rum Cherry ¹ ; Cabinet Cherry; Capulin Black Cherry; Escarpment Cherry ⁵	
Species Code (as per USDA Plants database)	PRSE2 ¹	
GENERAL INFORMATION		

Geographical range	
	Widespread in eastern North America, particularly between 49°N and 30°N ⁵ , and known to be highly invasive in Holland ¹
Ecological distribution	USDA Plant Hardiness Zones 3-9 ⁴ (prefers minimum temperatures between -40°C and 0°C)
Climate and elevation range	Grows at elevations of 0-1250m ¹ and is cold tolerant, and can grow in shady or sunny conditions, as well as in soils of both high and low pHs ²
Local habitat and abundance	Sunny open areas or in successional vegetation ¹ Also likes fence rows; roadsides; old fields, thickets, woodlands, canyons, floodplains, and lower riparian slopes ²

Plant strategy type / successional stage	Tree shape/growth will change depending on crowding factor-trees are shrubby with plentiful growing space, but tall and slender when crowded ² Can become shade-intolerant ¹	
Plant characteristics	Perennial deciduous tree ²	
PROPAGATION DETAILS		
Ecotype	Based on propagation of Black Cherry by John Englert, with seed collected at National Capital Parks in 1997 ⁶	
Propagation Goal	Seedlings	
Propagation Method	Seed	
Product Type	Plug ⁶	
Stock Type	Container-filled grown hybrids ⁶	
Time to Grow	N/A	
Target Specifications	36-48 inch seedlings with full, fibrous root systems ⁶	
Propagule Collection Instructions	Collect fruit when it is ripe and in full color ⁴	
Propagule Processing/Propagule Characteristics	Use a Dybvig separator to remove flesh ⁶ and briefly air dry the seeds ⁴ 4,600 seeds/kg with 100% purity have a germination of approximately 10% ⁶	
Pre-Planting Propagule Treatments	Warm stratification for 1-2 months in moist sand (greenhouse setting around 50-68°F) ⁴ followed by 2-3 months cold stratification ⁵ in 36-41°F ⁴ or sow seeds outdoors and use winter weather for natural stratification ⁶	
Growing Area Preparation / Annual Practices for Perennial Crops	Outdoor nursery beds are hand-sown with seed ⁶	
Establishment Phase Details	Sow in October and sprinkle with Endomycorrhizae as well as cover with ½ inch of soil and mulch with	

	aged sawdust (scraped back for emergence in spring) ⁶
Length of Establishment Phase	Up to 18 months ⁵
Active Growth Phase	Fertilization may be necessary based on soil nutrients where seedlings were planted (a granular 10-10-10 was applied once a week until early June and was alternated with a granular urea until late July,, and then applied every other week through August) accompanied by irrigation ⁶
Length of Active Growth Phase	Approximately 4 months (mid-April through late-August) ⁶
Hardening Phase	Fertilization and irrigation are reduced through September ⁶
Length of Hardening Phase	1 month ⁶
Harvesting, Storage and Shipping	Air dried seeds can be stored in temperatures of 31-41°F ⁴ and relative humidity of 35% ⁶ Bareroot seedlings required 1 year in the field before harvest (in December) and can be stored in bundles with long roots trimmed/covered in sawdust at 40°F; container plants required an additional year before harvest and could be stored outside under 2 layers of microfoam insulating blanket ⁶
Length of Storage	3 months for seeds, seedlings, and container plants (December-March) ⁶
Guidelines for Outplanting / Performance on Typical Sites	Plant in late spring or early summer ⁵
Other Comments	
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