



U.S. National Arboretum Plant Introduction

Prunus 'Abigail Adams'



Botanical Name: *Prunus campanulata* 'Abigail Adams'
(NA 69013; PI 667657)

Hardiness: USDA Zones 8-9.

Development: This unusual double-flowered form of *Prunus campanulata* was observed by U.S. National Arboretum botanist Roland Jefferson on a 1986 collecting trip to Taiwan. At Jefferson's request, scions were sent to the U.S. by the Chinese Culture University, Yang-Ming-Shan, Taipei, Taiwan in 1987. Since then, this accession has been used in multiple crosses in the flowering cherry breeding program at the U.S. National Arboretum.

Significance: 'Abigail Adams' was released in 2013 primarily to make this genetic resource available to growers and breeders. The outstanding feature of this germplasm is its dark pink semi-double flowers that are pollen-fertile, thus facilitating its use in breeding. It may also be valuable for its early bloom, low chilling requirement, and its adaptation to warmer climates.

Description: **Size and habit:** This plant has not been tested in the field, so data on growth rate, habit, and landscape performance are not yet available. The species grows to 25 feet tall and wide. **Flowers:** Abundant, dark pink, semi-double, each with 15-20 petals and 5-10 functional stamens. One of the earliest blooming of the ornamental flowering cherries.

Propagation: Juvenile softwood cuttings or grafting; cutting propagation from mature plants can be challenging.

Culture and Landscape Use: Grows and flowers best in full sun in well-drained soils. Early bloom may make it susceptible to late spring freezes in some climates. Suitable as an accent or small specimen tree.

Availability: Limited availability. Propagating nurseries and breeders can obtain cuttings or budwood by contacting Dr. Margaret Pooler, U.S. National Arboretum, 10300 Baltimore Ave., Bldg. 010A, Beltsville, MD 20705. Margaret.Pooler@ars.usda.gov

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Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit

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