



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

The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA, NRCS) and the Pennsylvania Game Commission announce the release of 'Catskill' dwarf sand cherry (*Prunus pumila* var. *depressa*). 'Catskill' was selected at the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Plant Materials Center in Big Flats, New York.

'Catskill' sand cherry (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, Canada, south to the New York-Pennsylvania border. This cherry prefers calcareous soils.

The principal 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, Corning, New York. 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.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write the USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW. Washington, D.C., 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.