

**United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Washington, DC
and
Pennsylvania State Game Commission
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania**

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF CATSKILL DWARF SAND CHERRY

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.

Collection Site Information: '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.

Description: 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.

Method of Breeding and Selection: Identify how many collections/accessions were involved in initial evaluations, standards for comparison, what traits were selected for, how selection was made, and the time period over which initial evaluations were conducted. Identify any breeding methods used to develop the release. Include a table summarizing the most convincing evaluation for this release if appropriate.

Provide detailed information about advanced evaluations, including number and location of evaluation sites, time period, selection methods used, data compiled for evaluated traits. For pre-varietal releases include any criteria used for any selection which was done, or indicate if there was no selection.

Ecological Considerations and Evaluation: State the methods used to determine any potential impact of the release on the environment. State the effects the release might have on the environment and any limitations or cautions to its conservation use or geographic area of use. Include any significant negative or positive attributes on the Environmental Evaluation that should be disclosed.

Conservation Use: 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.

Area of Adaptation: It is found from the Gaspé Peninsula to Ontario, south to the New York-Pennsylvania border. This cherry prefers calcareous soils.

Release Production: Indicate any special requirements for producing seed or plants of the release. This may include limitations of generations or years of production, requirements of certification classes, etc.

Availability of Plant Materials: A breeder's seed production block will be maintained by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Big Flats, Plant Materials Center, State Route 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.

**Signatures for the release of:
'Catskill' Sand Cherry (*Prunus pumila* var. *depressa*)**

_____	_____
Name	Date
State Conservationist	
United States Department of Agriculture	
Natural Resources Conservation Service	
City, State	
	1/24/1997

_____	_____
	Date
Executive Director	
PA Game Commission	
Harrisburg, PA	

_____	_____
Gary Nordstom	Date
Director, Ecological Sciences Division	
United States Department of Agriculture	
Natural Resources Conservation Service	
Washington, D.C.	