

# CHERRY LAUREL AS LANDSCAPE AND GARDEN PLANT

*KARADENİZ TURAN<sup>1</sup>, BAK TUBA<sup>2</sup>, GÜLER EMRAH<sup>3</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>Pamukkale University, Department of Horticulture, Faculty of Agriculture, Çivril, Denizli, Türkiye

<sup>2</sup>Bolu Abant İzzet Baysal University, Mudurnu Süreyya Astarçı Vocational School, Department of Plant and Animal Production, Mudurnu, Bolu, Türkiye

<sup>2</sup>Bolu Abant İzzet Baysal University, Department of Horticulture, Faculty of Agriculture, Bolu, Türkiye

**Abstract:** Cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) is an evergreen shrub that is native to parts of southeastern Europe and southwestern Asia. Cherry laurels are hardy for Zone 6 to Zone 8. The shrub is low in allergens, tolerates partly shade to full sun and drought and salt spray. Fertile, well-drained soil and not too acid (pH 6.5 to 7.5) is optimum for its growth. White, beautiful fragrant blooms appear mid-spring. Evergreens that stop growing at a perfect 8-12 ft. Its shimmering emerald color and disease resistance make it an extremely popular evergreen hedge. Individual leaves typically measure from 2 to 6 inches long and from 1/2 to 1 inch wide. At times when other shrubs aren't performing to their maximum potential, the cherry laurel is there to pick up the slack by providing interest all year long with its large lush foliage as its centerpiece. There are several excellent varieties of cherry laurel: 'Magnolia' has very large leaves, can be trained into a tree; 'Otto Luyken' is compact with abundant flowers, grows to 4 feet, spreads up to 8 feet; 'Schipkaensis' is the hardiest, wide spreading, smaller leaves; 'Zabeliana' has narrow, willow type leaves, a good shade ground cover. Their vigorous growth demands restraint, especially shrubs planted as hedges. They respond well to shearing and pruning practices. The more compact shrubs can be used around the foundation of a house or around the deck to hide the open space under a deck and backyard pond/landscaping. They look great 'massed' and the taller varieties can be used as an evergreen screening hedge along property lines. They accentuate entryways nicely. These can even be used in mass as erosion control on slopes and embankments.

**Key Words:** Cherry laurel, *Prunus laurocerasus* Landscape, Garden Plant.