











Fact Sheet

Common name		Plums, European and Japanese	
Botanical name		Prunus Domestica, Prunus salicina	
Summary:			
A small to medium deciduous tree to 7m with ornamental value to be found in early spring/late winter with white blossoms on leafless branches. There are notable differences in appearance, fruiting wood and fruit size/colour between the Japanese and European plum. Japanese plums have rough bark, thin long leaves, large attractive fruits with yellow to red flesh especially in blood plums. European plums have smooth bark, rounded leaves, small rounded fruit with yellow solid flesh. The Japanese plum is more commonly cultivated in Melbourne.			
Likes		Doesn't like	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full sun• Good drainage		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flowers exposed to frost colder than -3C	
Flowers in	Japanese plums in early September- European plums in late September	Flowers in	November to January
Care			
Planting	In winter when dormant		
Pollination/ self-fertile, requires another tree	A few are self-fertile (cherry plum, santa rosa) but the majority of cultivars need a compatible pollinator		
Pruning	After harvest to prevent fungal disease. In dry breezy weather. Japanese plums require annual pruning to promote new fruit bearing wood. European plums require less prudent pruning as they fruit on long lived spurs		
Disease and pest management	Brown rot (water with drippers or at ground level), leaf curl, wood borer moth,		
Moisture, how much and when	During flowering and fruit set and as fruit ripen		
Feeding	Not as heavy feeders as other stone fruit. spring and autumn.		
Harvesting	Plums are best straight of the tree when fully ripe, with a gentle twist		

What to do when		 Prune	 Harvest	 Feed	 Pest / Disease
 Summer	Dec		•		
	Jan	•	•		
	Feb	•			
 Autumn	March	•		•	
	April	•		•	
	May			•	•
 Winter	Jun	•			•
	Jul	•			•
	Aug	•		•	•
 Spring	Sep			•	•
	Oct			•	•
	Nov			•	•

This is a rough guide only. Individual fruit tree care depends on the variety, the conditions in your garden and your personal preferences!



Image credit: [Miia Sample](#)



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on tailored care for your fruit tree