



Prunus domestica 'Opal'



Height	4-6 m
Width	4-5m
Crown	round/spherical, half-open crown, capricious growing
Bark and branches	brown
Leaf	green
Flowers	white, slightly fragrant, flowers in April
Fruits	edible fruits, red, blue, purple/brown
Spines/thorns	None
Toxicity	usually not toxic to people, (large) pets and livestock
Soil type	clayed soil, loamy soil, sandy soil
Paving	tolerates no paving
Winter hardiness zone	6 (-23,3 to -17,8 °C)
Other resistances	resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6)
Fauna tree	resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6), valuable for bees (honey plant)
Application	small gardens, patio gardens
Shape	clearstem tree, multi-stem treem, clearstem fruit tree

'Opal' is one of the best-known and most widely used plum varieties. It is, especially when young, a strong-growing tree with a bushy, slightly jagged, semi-open crown of 4-6 m in height. The crown is round, although the stem branches initially grow up quite steeply. The tree flowers in April with lightly scented, white blossom. 'Opal' is a self-pollinating variety, but to ensure good fruit bearing at all times, it is best to plant a tree of another plum variety nearby. Preferably, 'Czar' or 'Victoria' is used for this purpose. The plums of 'Opal' are relatively small, ovoid and reddish-blue to purplish-red in colour. The flesh is yellow-green, juicy, aromatic and pleasantly sweet. The plums are ready for picking in late July-early August. They are great for direct consumption or for making purée. It is an easy, good-growing variety that usually produces many plums and is also particularly suitable for use in private gardens. 'Opal' was created in 1946 at the Swedish testing station in Alnarp, from a cross between 'Early Favorite' and 'Reine Claude d'Oullins'. Hardiness zone 6.