

[More Plants](#), [Buy Photos](#), [Home](#)

## Beach Plum (*Prunus maritima*)



### A Pictorial Portrait



#### Branch with Leaves and Fruit

This is the tastiest plum species on Earth. Enjoy the ripe fruit raw, straight off the bush, or cook the plums with a sweetener and thickener, strain out the seeds, and use in virtually any dessert.



### Habitat

Beach plums are large shrubs that grow in thickets near the seashore from Maine to Delaware. They bloom in early spring.



### Twig with Flowers

The showy, radially symmetrical, white petals bloom as the oval, pointed, finely toothed leaves are developing.



### Flower Cluster

The clusters of white flowers create a showy display for insect and human eyes.



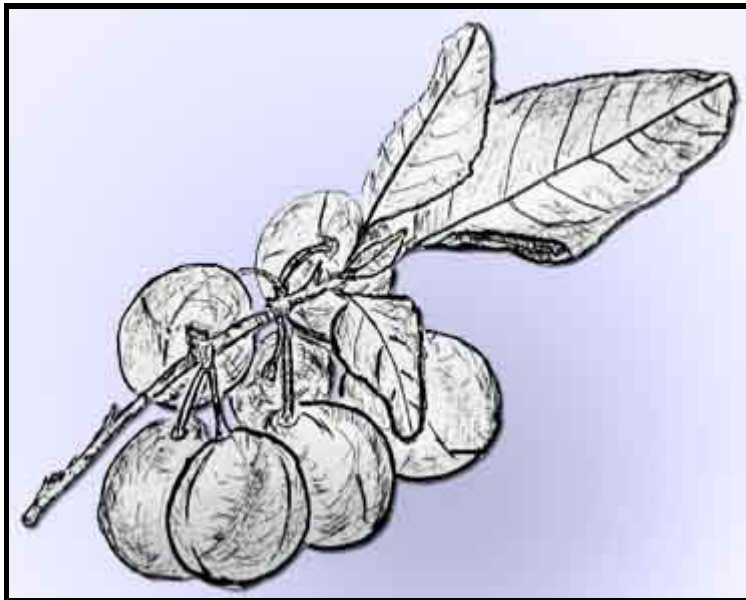
### Flower Cluster and Leaves

Note the flowers' protruding stamens, and the shrub's reddish-brown bark.



### Closeup of Flower

The yellow-brown anther at the tip of each stamen produces pollen, which insects transfer to the single, yellow pistil (female organ) protruding from the center of the flower.



### Twig with Fruit and Leaves

Spherical, grape-sized, short-stalked fruit cluster on slender twigs, ripening in



late summer and early fall.



### **Branches with Fruit**

In a good year, the fruit can be quite abundant, sometimes even weighing down the branches.



### **Unripe Fruit**

Unripe fruit is red, hard, and bitter.

Note the branches' reddish-brown, somewhat warty bark.



### Ripe Fruit

Ripe fruit is sky-blue. Avoid overripe, deformed plums.



### 5 Plums

Note the whitish, powdery coating, called a bloom, on each plum. Typical of plum, this protects the fruit from drying out.



### Plum Closeup

Note the ripe fruit's perfectly spherical shape, the short fruit stalk, and the scratches on the powdery bloom.

[Beach Plum Recipes](#)

---

[More Plants](#), [Buy Photos](#), [Home](#), [Back to the Top](#)