



Urban Harvest
Gardening for good.

Cherry of the Rio Grande

Category:	Semi-evergreen
Hardiness:	Protect before 20°F
Fruit Family:	Eugenia
Light:	Full sun
Size:	6'-15' H & 6'-10' W
Soil:	Well-drained
Planting:	Spring, after danger of frost has passed



True cherries in the genus *Prunus* do not produce in the Houston area. Cherry of the Rio Grande (*Eugenia aggregata*) is a delicious cherry substitute. It is one of the fruits known as “tropical cherries”. The fruit is deep red to dark wine-colored and 1” - 2” in size. It has a sweet, cherry-like flavor. They grow on a very attractive, 6’ – 15’ tall evergreen shrub with smooth, glossy, dark green leaves and exfoliating bark.

Care of Dragon Fruit

Planting: Keep in the nursery container until late March or early April. Plant in a well-drained location using the existing soil only.

Pruning & Training: Pruning is not required for fruit production. It can be trained as a shrub or as a small tree. The height can be maintained at a convenient height for harvesting.

Production: Cherry of the Rio Grande starts blooming in March and continues blooming for several months. Fruit ripens about three weeks from the bloom. Seedlings can take 3 - 5 years to begin production.

Watering: Cherry of the Rio Grande is drought tolerant once it is established. It will appreciate several deep soakings during the hottest parts of the summer during extended drought. Drought stress can reduce fruit production.

Fertilizing: Lightly fertilize in early summer with an organic fertilizer.

Harvesting: Fruit will be ripe approximately 3 weeks after flowering. Pick when it is a deep red color. Fruit does not keep well. Eat fresh, make into juice, jellies, or jam to preserve.



Pests: Cherry of the Rio Grande is generally pest free.

Winter Protection: Protect the first winter by covering with a blanket or heavy frost cloth. Protect the trunk by piling soil as high as possible. After the shrub has matured, it should be hardy to about 20 degrees.