



Japanese flowering apricots (*Prunus mume*) are remarkable winter flowering trees, heavily promoted by the late Dr. J. C. Raulston, and still very underused. Delightfully fragrant flowers cover this small deciduous tree in January-March. As of 1/25/2010, you can find about two-thirds of these 24 trees in flower at the Arboretum. Mumes are 12'-25' tall, an ideal size for small gardens or a fine accent for larger landscapes. Mumes prefer to be grown in full sun to part-shade, flowering best in full sun. Soil tolerances include clay, sand, loam, on well-drained sites. Combined with evergreens, they are a wonderful, fragrant addition to a winter garden.

1. *Prunus mume* 'Peggy Clarke' - Bed D33.

This double-flowered cultivar has bright rose-pink petals crowned with a bright red calyx. Flowers are very fragrant and make wonderful cut flowers. Introduced into the United States in 1941 by plant breeder, W.B. Clarke who named it after one of his daughters. Our specimen was planted in 2/2008, when it was 6' tall.

2. *Prunus mume* 'Okitsu-akabana' - Bed S13.

Light pink, double flowers that open slightly later than most mumes. Our specimen was planted in 2/2006 when it was 5' tall.

3. *Prunus mume* 'Tamaume' - Bed S14.

Our specimen was planted 5/2004 when it was nearly 3' tall.

4. *Prunus mume* 'Luke' - Bed S03.

This fine selection has purplish-red, mid season flowers and was obtained from Chapel Hill plantsman, Tom Krenitsky in 12/2007 at 7' tall. Many years ago J. C. Raulston got Tom interested in *Prunus mume*. He collected seeds from the trees at Coker Arboretum and from J. C.'s trees, planting out over 100 seedlings at his "Fields." There was great variation. What he looked for in the seedlings was disease resistance and the tree's attractiveness both in and out of flower.

5. *Prunus mume* 'Sabashi-ko' - Bed F06.

Flowers are deep reddish pink and occur early to mid-season. Our specimen was received in 10/2004 from Camellia Forest Nursery (Chapel Hill) when it was 5' tall.

6. *Prunus mume* 'Dawn' - Bed S09.

This somewhat dwarf selection was known as 'Musashi-nono' in Japan, but was named 'Dawn' about 1929 by plant breeder, W. B. Clarke. Still common in commerce, its flowers are fragrant, about 1.5" wide, rich clear pink, and double with ruffled petals. Our specimen was received in 2003 when it was 3.5' tall.

7. *Prunus mume* 'Rose Bud' - Bed P06.

Masses of delicately scented, large, pink, semi-double flowers (up to 1") in mid winter. Very upright branching, low bushy small tree, spreading as the tree matures. Our specimen was received at the JCRA in 2/1997 when it was 3' tall.

8. *Prunus mume* 'Tojibai' - Bed WG8.

Single white flowers early in the winter season. Form is upright. Our specimen was received 10/2001 at 3' tall and was planted here 5/2004.

9. *Prunus mume* 'Bonita' - Bed P04.

Each year on this beauty, you can count on double, pink, 1" flowers in January and February. Our specimen was received in 1999 when it was 4' tall.

10. *Prunus mume* 'Big Joe' - Bed E12.

'Big Joe' is a selection with white flowers made by Chapel Hill plantsman, Tom Krenitsky, who named it after his partner, Joe Sica.

11. *Prunus mume* - Bed E19.

This unnamed selection has semi-double, medium pink flowers.

12. *Prunus mume* - Bed E21e.

This is another unnamed selection with medium pink, single flowers early in the season.

13. *Prunus mume* 'W. B. Clarke' - E21e.

This weeping, double pink mume is one of the most beautiful in the arboretum. Our specimen was 10' in 2000.

14. *Prunus mume* 'Nicholas' - Bed E28.

'Nicholas' is Chapel Hill plantsman, Tom Krenitsky's selection that he named after his oldest son. Tom says: "It is a rather upright grower, vigorous tree with good pink blossoms. It flowers a little later than some of its sibling seedlings. Most importantly, thus far, it has not been infested with the black canker." Specimen was received in 10/2004 when it was about 3.5' tall.

15. *Prunus mume* 'Matsurabara Red' - Bed E43b.

In North American commerce in or before 1970. Flowers early with very deep pink-red petals, semi-double flowers nearly an inch across. This selection has an upright form, with reddish young foliage and purple twigs. Specimen was 3' tall when received at the JCRA in 11/1995.

16. *Prunus mume* 'Trumpet' - Bed E43b.

One of the earliest mumes to flower at the JCRA, 'Trumpet' is covered with pale pink flowers each January. Our specimen was 3' tall when received at the JCRA in 11/1995.

17. *Prunus mume* 'Rosemary Clarke' - Bed LBe.

This selection is a sheet of double white flowers in mid-spring.

18. *Prunus mume* - Bed E34.

One of the largest mumes at the JCRA covered with pink flowers, early. Note its beautiful furrowed bark. Our specimen was 2.5' tall in 1996.

19. *Prunus mume* (dwarf) - Bed E36.

This compact selection is still being evaluated at the JCRA for its dwarfness. It has red, double flowers and was received as a cutting from nurseryman Don Shadow (Shadow Nursery, Winchester, Tennessee) in 8/2004.

20. *Prunus mume* 'Kobai' - Bed A06.

Selection was in North American commerce in or before 1991. Flowers are red, semi-double. Planted here in 3/1997, when it was 3' tall.

21. *Prunus mume* 'Ryogaku' - Bed A06.

White flowers. In June 1991, this specimen was 17' tall.

22. *Prunus mume* 'Bridal Veil' - Bed A14.

An outstanding Camellia Forest Nursery (Chapel Hill) introduction with very pale pink flowers on gently weeping branches. Selected from 100s of seedlings for its form and strongly scented flowers. Without staking, a specimen at Camellia Forest Nursery has mounded up to 10' tall and 20' across in 10 years. Received in 7/2003 at 2.5' tall.

23. *Prunus mume* 'Omoi-no-mama' - Bed Sc1.

Early to mid-season flowers are semi-double in different shades of light pink to white. Usually flowers late in this sheltered location. Our specimen was received in 10/2001 at 3.5' tall.

24. *Prunus mume* 'Josephine' - Bed Su6.

This selection was developed by Chapel Hill plantsman, Tom Krenitsky, and has very light pink, single flowers in middle season. One of the strongest varieties in under harsh conditions. Our specimen was planted in 10/2003, when it was 2.5' tall.

Nancy Doubrava, Interpretive Specialist, 1/2010

