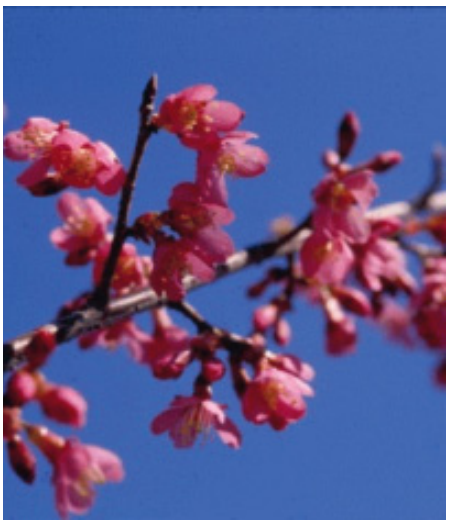
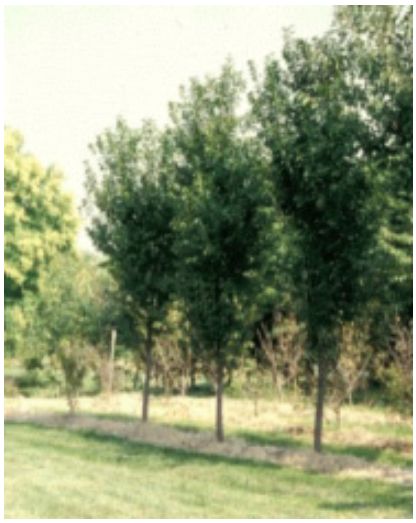
# 'First Lady' Flowering Cherry







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| **Botanical Name:** | ***Prunus* 'First Lady'**<br>(NA 61051; PI 584481) |
| **Hardiness**: | USDA Zones 6-8, possibly into Zone 9. |
| **Significance**: | 'First Lady' was selected for its strongly upright growth habit and dark pink semi-pendulous single flowers. It is the first in a series of flowering cherries to be named after First Ladies of the United States. |
| **Description**: | **Height and width**: 25 feet tall and 14 feet wide at 20 years.<br>**Habit**: Strongly upright, almost columnar.<br>**Foliage**: Glossy, dark green leaves with good disease tolerance.<br>**Flowers**: Dark pink, single, semi-pendulous flowers open in late March in the Washington, D.C. area, at approximately the same time as its female parent, *Prunus* x *incam* 'Okame'. |
| **Culture:** | 'First Lady' grows and flowers well in full sun in well-drained soil. |
| **Propagation**: | Softwood cuttings taken from juvenile plants, or by budding or grafting. Propagation by cuttings from mature plants is challenging. |
| **Landscape Use:** | Specimen plant, group plantings in residential, park, or public areas, highway beautification plantings, street plantings, or in areas where a large spreading tree is problematic. |
| **Availability:** | Limited wholesale availability in 2003. For source list of cooperating wholesale nurseries, contact Dr. Margaret Pooler, U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20002, or email at poolerm@ars.usda.gov |

**U.S. National Arboretum Plant Introduction**
**Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit**

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**http://www.usna.usda.gov** **August 2003**

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