



PRUNUS

1. *Prunus spinosa* / *P. domestica*

The taxonomy of *P. spinosa* L. and *P. domestica* L. is very complex and there is more variation than described in most floras. For a very detailed account of cherries and plums in Cambridgeshire see Sell (1991, 1992); it has much relevance over most of Britain and Ireland.

When collecting specimens, please record on the label the size, shape, colour and taste of the fruit, and packet some stones after extracting them by boiling.

References Sell, P. D. (1991). *Nature in Cambridgeshire* **33**: 29-39.
Sell, P. D. (1992). *Nature in Cambridgeshire* **34**: 59-60.

2. *Prunus serotina* / *P. padus*

Prunus serotina is widely scattered and naturalised on heaths and in woods in S Britain, and has racemes of flowers in May or June, the leaves often turning bright red in the autumn. *Prunus padus* is a plant of woods and rocks in N Britain and fens in E England. It is possible that some of the records for *P. padus* in SE England are errors for *P. serotina*, so any records from heathland in the south should be checked.

P. padus L.: Leaves glabrous or with brownish to white hairs in axils and tufts along lower side midrib and (0-)1-3 glands ($\times 10$ lens); pedicels 8-15 mm in flower; petals 6-9 mm; fruit 6-8 mm.

P. serotina Ehrh.: Leaves glabrous or with narrow rows of hairs along lower-side midrib, at first white, later pale brown or disappearing; pedicels 2-7 mm in flower, and glands present or absent (-10 mm in fruit); petals 3-4.5 mm; fruits 8-10 mm.

Reference Palmer, J. R. (1988). *BSBI News* **50**: 34.