

FGCU Food Forest

Plant Database

Barbados Cherry (*Malpighia glabra*)

Origin: Central America

Description: Large, bushy shrub or

Fruits are cherry-like and turn dark

Uses: Food; juice.

Harvest: Summer months.

Flower: In sessile or short peduncled cymes; 5 pink spoon-shaped, fringed

Tolerance: tolerates a range of soils; mature specimens are hardy to 28F.



General Description: The Barbados Cherry tree is a large bushy shrub or small tree that can get up to 20 ft. tall and wide at maturity. It has bright green evergreen leaves, pink flowers, and red cherries. They are very productive as long as they get plenty of water and nutrients, although they are pretty hardy trees and can survive droughts.

- **Native Origin:** Central America; Mexico
- **General History** Barbados Cherry, also know as “Acerola” or “West Indian Cherry”, has been cultivated for thousands of years in Central and South America. In the mid-1950s, Barbados Cherry was introduced and widely cultivated in Florida and Hawaii at the commercial scale, but is now more common in home-gardens.
- **Distribution:** Tropical and subtropical regions in South, Central, and North America, Asia, the Pacific, and the Caribbean.
- **Season of Harvest:** Summer
- **Culinary Uses:** Eaten raw as a snack or dessert; made into a juice. The fruit has a very high Vitamin C content.

Barbados Cherry
Scientific Classification

Kingdom:	Plantae
(unranked):	Angiosperms
(unranked):	Eudicots
(unranked):	Rosids
Order:	Malpighiales
Family:	Malpighiaceae
Genus:	<i>Malpighia</i>
Species:	<i>M. glabra</i>

Sources

https://www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/morton/barbados_cherry.html

http://manatee.ifas.ufl.edu/lawn_and_garden/master-gardener/gardening-manatee-style/b/barbados-cherry.pdf

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