

盛放的山櫻 為初春添生氣

Blossoms of
Prunus campanulata
adds liveliness to
early spring



在中半山區的山櫻生長良好
The *Prunus* performs well in
upper mid-level locations

Photos from AFCD (left) and Professor C.Y. Jim (right)

山櫻（鐘花櫻桃，緋寒櫻）屬於小型落葉喬木，其淡粉至桃紅色鐘形叢生的花朵在初春（2月到3月）盛開。由於山櫻燦爛的花朵極具觀賞價值，故被廣泛種植。山櫻原生於中國南部，於浙江、福建、台灣、廣東、廣西、日本南部及越南等地均有分佈。在香港，它們較為適應在海拔數百米高的環境中生長。在地勢較高的地點，全年氣溫相對較為清涼，這是有利山櫻的生長速度、並縮短由種植至開花的年期及增加開花的數量。每年初春，盛放的山櫻吸引著無數的植物及攝影愛好者到嘉道理農場暨植物園中觀賞。

三年前，詹志勇教授在香港大學內種植了一些山櫻。據詹教授說，中半山區的庭園環境能提供較為清涼的夏季、寒冷的冬天和良好的空氣質素，促使山櫻茂盛生長，展現花團錦簇。在適當的地點種植山櫻，不但能增加香港的天然色彩，也能豐富本地的植物種類。✿

Prunus campanulata, bell-flower cherry, Taiwan Cherry, is a small deciduous tree that has light pink to rosy pink bell-shaped flowers that blossom in early spring (February to March). It is widely planted as an ornamental tree because of its notably spectacular floral displays. It is native to southern China (Zhejiang, Fujian, Taiwan, Guangdong and Guangxi), and is also found in southern Japan and Vietnam. In Hong Kong the species tends to prosper on mountain habitats at several hundred metres above sea level. They perform better in terms of growth rate, flowering time after planting, and quantity of blooms at sites of higher elevation, with lower temperature year round. The charming blossoms of *Prunus campanulata* in Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden every spring attract many plant and photography lovers.

Three years ago, Professor C.Y. Jim of the University of Hong Kong planted some *Prunus campanulata* in the campus. According to Professor Jim, the *prunus* performed well in the genial garden environment in the upper mid-levels location with relatively cooler summer, more chilly winter and better air quality. The blossoms were very attractive. Planting this species with attractive flowers in suitable locations bring more colour and diversity to the plant palette in Hong Kong. ✿