

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Prunus serotina

Black Cherry



Medium-sized tree, about two-thirds as wide as it is tall, with leaves that first emerge a lovely bronze then turn dark green and glossy. Fragrant racemes of white flowers in May or June followed by edible fruit, red ripening to black. Loved by birds and wildlife. Fall color is good: yellow to orange. Bark is interesting in winter as it resembles "burnt potato chips." Leaves and twigs are poisonous to livestock. Susceptible to tent caterpillars and black knot.

Suggested companions: sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), any of the oaks or hickories, witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

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Plant Type: Tree
Size: 35-60' H
30-40' W

Water Tolerant: No

Habitat:

Woodland Margin
Open field/ Prairie
Forested Upland

Soil: Average Garden Soil
Sandy/ Gravelly
Rich Moist

Exposure: sun
filtered

Flower Color:

White

Plant in:

Groundcover: No

Bloom Time:

May
June

Other Attributes:

Wildlife attracting
Bird attracting
Fall color
Fragrant
Edible fruit
Butterfly attracting