

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# Prunus virginiana

## Chokecherry



Small, multi-stemmed tree or large shrub, tending to grow in colonies. Foliage is coppery in spring, glossy green in summer, and bright yellow or orange in fall. Drooping racemes of white flowers in May, are strongly scented. Fruit, in pendant clusters, is red, ripening to black in September. Edible, but tart; good for preserves. Transplants readily. Susceptible to black knot.

**Suggested companions:** Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) and staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*). Also with oaks (*Quercus* sp.), Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*), blue-stemmed goldenrod (*Solidago caesia*), heart-leaved aster (*Aster cordifolius*).

Photo Credit: © USDA, NRCS, 1995-Midwestern Wetland Flora. The PLANTS database (<http://plants.usda.gov/plants>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA

Plant Type: Small Tree  
Size: 12-30' H  
18-24' W

Water Tolerant: No

Habitat:

Woodland Margin  
Open field/ Prairie  
Shrubby Wetland

Soil: Average Garden Soil  
Rich Moist

Exposure: sun  
filtered  
shade

Flower Color:  
White

Bloom Time:  
May

Plant in:

Groundcover: No

Other Attributes:

Fragrant  
Bird attracting  
Wildlife attracting  
Fall color  
Edible fruit  
Butterfly attracting