

F2136 (June 2024)

Joseph Zeleznik, Ph.D., Extension Forester

North Dakota Tree Selector

General

Scientific Name: *Prunus serotina*

Family: Rosaceae (Rose)

Hardiness: Zone 3

Leaves: Deciduous

Plant Type: Tree

Growth

Rate: Medium

Mature Height: 50-80'

Longevity: Long

Power Line: No

Ornamental

Flowers: White

Fruit: Drooping clusters of small purple-black cherries

Fall Color: Yellow to rose

Black Cherry

Description

Most noted for its profuse spring bloom, the black cherry also has attractive summer foliage and fall color. One of the largest of the cherry trees, the fruits are inedible straight off the tree, but can be used to make jams and jellies. Fruits are attractive to wildlife. Native to Eastern North America.

Preferences

Light: Part shade.

Water: Medium to high water use.

Soil: Best grown in moist, fertile loam soils.

Comments

Native Americans prepared decoctions of inner bark for cough medicines and tea-like cold remedies. Hard, reddish-brown wood takes a fine polish and is commercially valued for use in a large number of products such as furniture, veneers, cabinets, interior paneling, gun stocks, instrument/tool handles and musical instruments. Species name comes from the Latin word for "late" in reference to the late flowering and fruiting in comparison to other cherry varieties. Potentially susceptible to black rot canker.



Credits: Plant Selector Website, <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=a914>