

Black Cherry



Prunus Serotina is native to eastern North America, Mexico and Central America. It typically occurs in both lowland and upland woods and along streams. It is one of the largest of the cherries, typically growing to 50-75' tall with a narrow-columnar to rounded crown. It is perhaps most noted for its profuse spring bloom, attractive summer foliage and fall color. Fragrant white flowers in slender pendulous clusters appear with the foliage in spring. Flowers are followed by drooping clusters of small red cherries that ripen in late summer turning dark purple-black in September.

Zone 2-8 (Schumacher's Nursery & Berry Farm Inc.)

The black cherry prefers full sun but can tolerate some shade and does best on moist, deep, fertile soils but will tolerate dry, sandy soils. The ideal soil for cherries would be reasonably fertile but also deep, especially where the ground is dry.

They have little white clusters of flowers that turn into dark purple/black berries in August. The ripe berries are a favorite with game birds and songbirds. The berries make good jelly and wine. Black cherries are not just for the birds, raccoons, black bear, deer, rabbits and squirrels also feast on the ripe berries. The wildlife value of the black cherry tree is high.