

Black Chokeberry



Black chokeberry is an open, upright, spreading, somewhat rounded but leggy, deciduous shrub which typically grows 3-6' (infrequently to 9') tall. Features clusters of 5-petaled, white flowers in spring which are followed in early autumn by blackish purple, blueberry-sized fruits which usually do not persist into winter. Lustrous, dark green foliage turns an attractive purplish red in autumn. Although technically edible, the fruits are extremely tart and bitter, and are not recommended for eating off the bush (hence the common name of chokeberry), but may be used for making tasty jams and jellies. All Zones
(Schumacher's Nursery & Berry Farm Inc.)

This shrub is native to Minnesota with hardiness and wide tolerance to a variety of soil textures, densities, pH levels and moisture conditions.

Because of suckering and its tolerance to wet soils, this species is typically used in mass planting, in naturalized and woodland gardens, for erosion control, in windbreaks and in excessively wet soils .

In spring, it has showy white flower clusters. In autumn, leaves change from green to vibrant tones of red, orange and purple. Fruit can persist into winter and serves as a food source for birds and other wildlife. The high-antioxidant fruit is used in baking and to make jams, jellies, syrup, tea and juice.