

# CELEBRATION OF TREES



**Black Gum**  
*Nyssa sylvatica*

## CHARACTERISTICS

**Height:** 30' – 50'

**Width:** 20' – 30'

**Identification:** Black Gum is an ornamental deciduous tree. It is slow-growing with a straight trunk and rounded crown. It is more pyramidal shaped when young. It usually grows 30'-50' tall but can reach 90'. Plant it in an area which allows room for future growth, as it is difficult to transplant once established. It is primarily dioecious (separate male and female trees) but often each tree has perfect flowers.

## GROWING CONDITIONS

**Native Habitat:** Eastern North America (Zone: 3 to 9)

**Water:** Medium to wet

**Sun Light:** Full sun to part shade

Easily grown in average, medium to wet soils in full sun to part shade. Black Gums tolerate poorly drained soils and benefit from moist, acidic soils. Also tolerates some drought and can adapt to drier soils.

## BENEFITS

Black Gum has great fall color. It is beneficial for birds, wildlife and pollinators. It can grow in a variety of conditions and is excellent to use as a street tree or lawn tree.

**Sources:** Missouri Botanical Garden website, internet photos



Small greenish-white flowers are an excellent nectar source for bees.



Flowers give way to dark blue, oval, ½" long fruits which are attractive to birds and wildlife.