

BLACK GUM, SOUR GUM, BLACK TUPELO
Nyssa sylvatica



Nyssa sylvatica

Outstanding medium sized (30-50 feet at maturity) tree for foliage color. Throughout the season leaves have lustrous dark-green color on upper leaf surface. In fall, the vast majority of black gums have incredibly vibrant orange-red to scarlet foliage, though a few turn a disappointing yellow year after year. Native from Maine to Florida.

Has surprising tolerance to a variety of soil moistures, from swampy sites to upland dry locations, though well-drained, acid, organic soil sites are best. Very few significant insect or diseases. Somewhat difficult to transplant due to tap root system; best to move in early spring.

Overall shape varies from black gum to black gum and also from youth to maturity. When young, most black gums resemble pin oak in shape with descending, horizontal and upright branches in

order as you move up the trunk. With age may become either rounded or somewhat flat-topped.

The attractive shape, relative resistance to serious pests, attractive blue-black fruits in years when they are abundant, the glossy summer foliage - all are good features of black gum. But the real clincher is the wonderful fall color. Starting in mid-summer a few deep scarlet leaves will fall to the ground as harbingers of fall. Then come October, this tree really shines as possibly the best fall foliage tree in North America



Nyssa sylvatica

Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association Plant Selection Committee choice in 1988.



brought to you by the members of
The Ohio Nursery & Landscape Association
72 Dorchester Square / Westerville, OH 43081
(800) 825-5062 / (614) 899-1195
Photos Courtesy ONLA Plant Selection Committee