

Wild Black Cherry

Who am I?

Wild Black cherry (*Prunus serotina*) is a woody, deciduous tree in the rose family (Rosaceae). Black cherry requires full sun, soil high in organic matter and good drainage. It exhibits a scaly or flaky pattern. In the spring, it has small, white flowers that ultimately produce a round, dark purple fruit that matures in late summer. Leaves shiny on the upper surface; blade oblong with a long-pointed tip and tapering base, margins finely serrate. It is an aromatic tree; crushed foliage and bark have distinctive cherry-like odor and bitter taste.

Where can you find me?

Wild Black Cherry grow in a variety of habitats, including woodlands, roadsides, fields and fencerows. They prefer well-drained, fertile soil with a basic or slightly acidic pH.

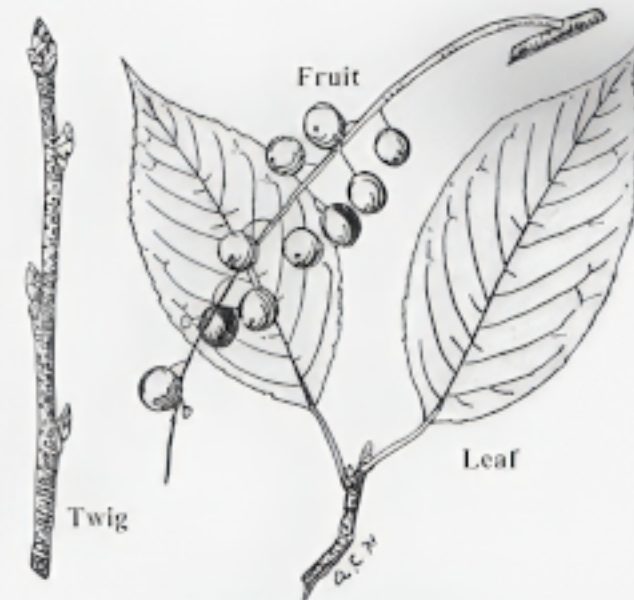
What Ecological Services do I provide?

Like all trees, Wild Black Cherry trees take in carbon dioxide (CO₂), release oxygen by way of photosynthesis, and store carbon in their trunks.

Black cherry fruits are an important source of mast for many birds, squirrel, deer, turkey, mice and moles, and other wildlife. It is a host plant for over 450 species of Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths).

The bark of Wild Black Cherry has medicinal properties. In the southern Appalachians, bark is stripped from young black cherries for use in cough medicines, tonics, and sedatives. The fruit is used for making jelly, flavoring, and wine. Wild Black Cherry lumber is highly prized for high-end furniture making, cabinetry, flooring, veneer, and decorative applications like paneling and moldings.

My name is
Bregalad. You can
find me on the
Sensory Trail



WILD BLACK CHERRY