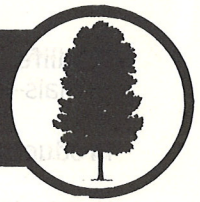


CHOKECHERRY



Prunus virginiana

IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS:

- Branching:** Alternate.
- Leaves:** Simple; sharp, finely toothed; duller green than black cherry; broader than black or pin cherries; petiole—usually a pair of distinct dark glands near base of leaves.
- Flowers:** Monoecious (male and female on same tree).
- Fruit:** Dark purple to black at maturity; edible, tart; ripen in July and August.
- Twigs:** Smooth, reddish-brown, bitter; scraping the bark with thumbnail reveals a strong cherry odor (probably the simplest means for identification).
- Bark:** Thin, smooth, gray; resembles alder more than cherries.

GROWTH HABITS:

- Rate:** Moderate to rapid.
- Maturity age:** Not available.
- Height:** 20 to 30 feet.
- Crown spread:** 15 to 35 feet.
- Roots:** Shallow, spreading, fibrous, suckering.

RANGE: Native; see maps.

SHADE TOLERANCE: Intermediate.

SOILS:

- pH preference:** 6.5 to 7.5; prefers rich, loamy soils.
- Drainage:** Prefers well-drained soil.
- Moisture:** Prefers moist soil but tolerates dry conditions.

SUSCEPTIBILITY:

- Insects:** Ugly nest caterpillar; eastern tent caterpillar.
- Diseases:** Black knot; shot hole.
- Drought:** Tolerant.
- Salt spray:** Tolerant.

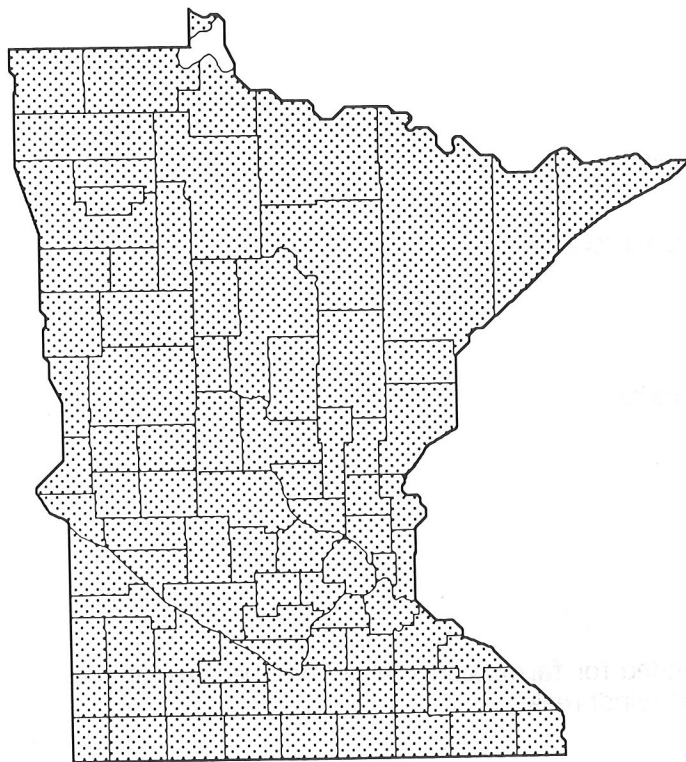
USES:

Shelterbelts and/or windbreaks: Not recommended for farmstead shelterbelts because of prolific root suckering. Not recommended for field windbreaks.

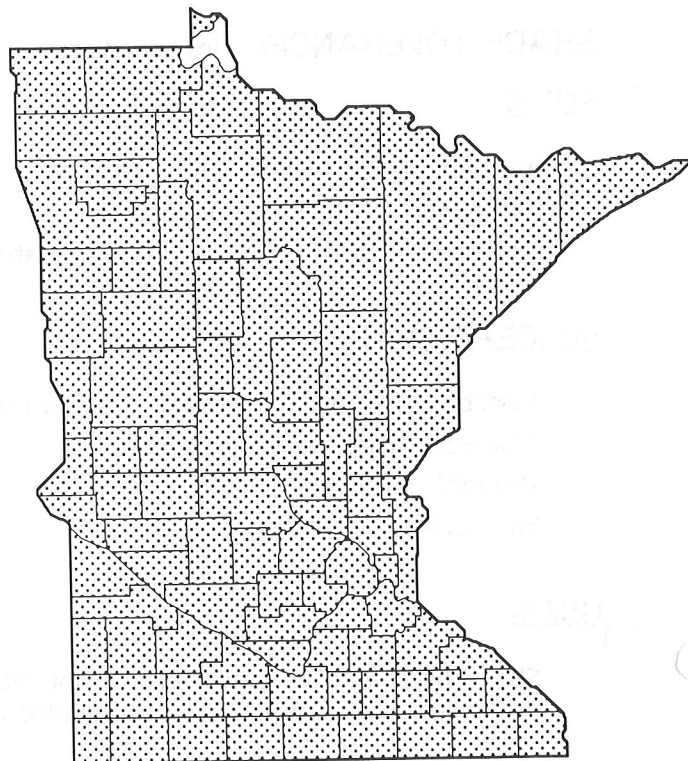
Wildlife: Very good to excellent; birds—perching, nesting (branches), feeding (fruits, buds); mammals—some value as loafing cover, feeding (twigs, buds, foliage, fruits).

Products: Fuelwood.

Horticultural: Commonly used for landscape plantings. Cultivars are: 'Shubert'—pyramidal shape; new leaves are green turning dark maroon or purplish at maturity; 'Canada Red'—similar to 'Shubert'; reported to have a straighter trunk and more uniform branching habits.



Chokeberry native range.



Chokeberry estimated planting range.