



Black Cherry - Prefers moist, deep, fertile soils but will tolerate dry or sandy soils. It can be grown in full sun to partial shade and will tolerate both alkaline and acidic soils. It will tolerate drought and salt, but will not tolerate full shade.

Leaf: Alternate, simple, 2 to 5 inches long, oblong to lance-shaped, finely serrated, very small inconspicuous glands on petiole, dark green and lustrous above, paler below; usually with a dense yellowish-brown, sometimes white pubescence along mid-rib.

Flower: Small white flowers in hanging, narrow clusters 4 to 6 inches long, appearing in late spring.

Fruit: Dark purple round drupe, almost black when ripe, 1/3 inch in diameter with a bitter-sweet taste; matures in late summer.

Twig: Slender, reddish brown, sometimes covered in gray epidermis, pronounced bitter almond odor and taste; buds are very small (1/5 inch), covered in several glossy, reddish brown to greenish scales; leaf scars are small and semicircular with 3 bundle scars.

Bark: Smooth with numerous short, narrow, horizontal lenticels when young; becomes very dark (nearly black), breaking up into small, rough, irregular, upturned plates (burnt corn flakes), when older.

Form: Medium sized tree which (on good sites) develops a long, straight, clear bole and can reach heights approaching 100 feet.