

FactSheet



Chokecherry, Common

Prunus virginiana

General

Family:	Rosaceae - Rose
Cultivar Availability:	Yes
Hardiness Zone:	2 - 6
Tree Type:	Broadleaf
Utah Native:	Yes

Growth

Growth Rate:	Medium
Mature Height:	Medium
Longevity:	Low
OK Under Powerlines:	Yes
Crown Shape:	Shrubby

Ornamental

Flowers:	Yes
Fruit:	No
Foliage:	No
Fall Color:	No
Bark:	No

Tolerances

Shade:	Low
Salt:	Medium
Drought:	Medium
Poor Drainage:	Low
Alkalinity:	High

Leaves: Alternate; simple; oval to obovate; 2" to 4" long and two-thirds as wide; deciduous; dark green and glabrous above, paler beneath; sharply, finely serrate margin with spreading (mostly not in-curving) teeth; petiole 1/2" long with small, conspicuous gland or bump on each side at base of leaf blade.

Twigs/buds: Twigs slender to medium-stout; new twigs somewhat downy, otherwise glabrous with a few small round lenticels; red-brown when young turning patchy silver-gray when older; twigs often infected with black growth from black-knot disease. Terminal buds 1/4" to 1/3" long, scaly, red-brown to brown like twig; lateral buds same size or slightly smaller.

Flowers/fruit: Flowers perfect, small, white, appear in elongated bunches in May. Fruit a drupe; black; round; about 1/3" in diameter; edible; sour.

Bark: On young stems smooth, red-brown; on older stems turning gray-black and remaining fairly smooth with obvious lenticels that do not extend horizontally like many other Prunus species.

Transplanting: Medium

Wood: Not important and little known.

General: Native to most of the continental U.S., including Utah, and to much of Canada. Large shrub to small tree, usually with a multi-stemmed habit. Likes fairly moist locations with rich soils, but will do well on poorer sites. Shade intolerant. Fruit and/or plant part can be nuisances; use fruitless varieties if possible.

Landscape Use: Attractive flowers and small size potentially make it a useful tree. Good for wildlife habitat plantings and windbreaks, and fruit can be used in jams and jellies. Black knot disease reduces attractiveness and vigorous sucker-sprouting can be a problem. Zones 2-6.

Cultivars: 'Bailey Select', 'Boughen's Chokeless', 'Canada Red', 'Copper Schubert', 'Mini Schubert', 'Purple Jewel', 'Robert', 'Schubert'.



Native Trees - (c) Michael Kuhns



Crown, Ogden Bot. Gardens - (c) Michael Kuhns



'Schubert' Crown - (c) Michael Kuhns



'Schubert' Flowers - (c) Michael Kuhns



Leaves, Fall Color - (c) Michael Kuhns



Twigs, Black Knot Disease - (c) Michael Kuhns



Bark - (c) Michael Kuhns

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