

BLACK GUM

Nyssa sylvatica



Howard County, MD Forestry Board

Mature Height	50-70 Feet	Soil Type	Deep, Well-drained
Mature Spread	10-45 Feet	Flower Color	Inconspicuous
Mature Form	Round Irregular	Foliage Color	Dark Green
Growth Rate	Slow	Fall Color	Yellow to Red
Sun Exposure	Full Sun	Zones	5-9
Soil Moisture	Moist		

The Black Gum, *Nyssa sylvatica*, is a good specimen tree for lawns. A showy tree in autumn, the Black Gum's dark green foliage changes to oranges, reds, and purples. In September, the tree's blue-black berries ripen and are an important source of food for wildlife.

The Black Gum will not tolerate shade and should be planted on a moist site. It is helpful to water this tree frequently for its first year of growth. The Black Gum's taproot makes transplanting difficult and it should be pruned in the fall.



North Carolina State University Cooperative Extension

University of Connecticut Plant Database



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